



How HESSER FAILED

A look at the 115
year old school
that's closing its
doors for good

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GRANITE VIEWS **JODY REESE**

Print for the digital age



Hippo will turn 15 years old at the end of this year. We're proud to say that in a time of big media changes, we continue to grow and bring real value to New Hampshire by consistently producing quality local journalism.

This issue's cover story is a great example. We look at the story behind the story of the closing of Hesser College (most recently known as Mount Washington College), a 115-year-old New Hampshire institution. What forces really closed the college? It's a fascinating business and education story that highlights large changes in higher education. It's worth the read.

Last month, we delved into the business of drug dealing to look at out-of-state dealers targeting New Hampshire. We were first to report on this trend and did it in-depth. Shortly after, some of the state's daily newspapers reported the same thing — that dealers are in fact targeting New Hampshire because illegal drug prices here are higher than nearby states.

There was a time when daily newspapers regularly wrote long investigative stories and feature articles. But as staffs have shrunk and focus has turned online, legacy dailies just can't or won't do that sort of local reporting any more. That's where we've stepped in.

Over time, Hippo has increased its unique coverage of New Hampshire. This has led to a 42 percent increase in Hippo's circulation in the past five years. Our pressrun—and our audience—is now larger than that of the Union Leader.

Our editorial staff includes the state's only full-time food writer and the state's only full-time arts writer. We feel strongly that the future is bright for good, quality journalism. And we'll continue to produce it.

We will, however, not produce it online. You may have noticed that only a few of this week's stories are on our website as stand-alone stories. That's because to pay for our journalism, we need advertisers to pick up the tab and online ads are priced so low that the business doesn't work. (We do publish the entire paper, including the ads, online in an app called Issu.) There is not a single online-only media company that can make money producing original content like you see in the Hippo.

Not surprisingly, readers enjoy original, well-made content. Alas, many of the state's legacy dailies and weeklies no longer do that. They use heavy doses of wire copy and pre-written press releases. It's either content that's available everywhere or it's low quality.

Our circulation growth over the past five years proves that people don't care if compelling content comes on their phones or on paper. The content just needs to be compelling.

That's our vision for 2016 and beyond. Think of it as print for the digital age. 🌐



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ON THE COVER 12 HOW HESSER

FAILED An institution in Manchester for 115 years, Hesser College (now known as Mount Washington College) will be closing in the spring. The Hippo took a look at the story behind its demise, as well as how Southern New Hampshire University, whose roots are similar to Hesser's, has continued to grow year after year.



ALSO ON THE COVER, whether you want to go out to eat for your holiday meal or get some delicious food to go, you can find all kinds of options in this week's food section, starting on page 48.

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Kinder Morgan

A crowd of protesters delivered a petition to the Statehouse on Dec. 11 opposing Kinder Morgan's plan to build a natural gas pipeline through southern New Hampshire. NHPR reported the petition had collected more than 10,000 signatures. Protesters speaking on the Statehouse lawn said the state didn't need the pipeline, but industry leaders and the region's grid operator say a new natural gas pipeline would be needed to stabilize and lower energy prices.

Meanwhile, the Union Leader reported critics also took aim recently at Kinder Morgan's finances. As its stock has fallen and its dividend was cut, many questioned whether Kinder Morgan is stable enough to build and operate a \$3 billion pipeline. The company's stock hit a record low at \$15.73 a share and it cut its dividend to investors by 75 percent as a result. While all fossil fuel energy companies have suffered from the drop in oil prices, Kinder Morgan's 60 percent decline is worse than what's seen with other companies.

Soldier dies

Army Ranger Cpl. Andrew Aimesbury of Strafford died from injuries sustained during a live-fire training exercise. The Union Leader reported the exercise took place at Fort Stewart, Georgia, from where Aimesbury was airlifted to a treatment facility. Few details of the incident have been released and the Army said it's being investigated. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Gov. Maggie Hassan each expressed their sympathies in emailed statements. Ayotte said, "he died training for the kind of missions that help keep us safe and free." Aimesbury previously served one tour in Afghanistan.

Bobcat hunt

New Hampshire is one step closer to instituting a bobcat hunting and trapping season. The AP reported the Fish and Game Commission voted to approve initial rules that would allow a maximum of 50 cats be hunted or trapped during a short season. Next, Fish and Game must collect more public input and hold a public hearing in late January before it votes on the final rules. A bobcat hunting season existed in

New Hampshire until 1989, when it was abolished due to a record low population of 200. The bobcat population has since rebounded, with estimates as high as 2,200, but opponents argue those estimates are flawed and that bobcats self-regulate their populations.

Panhandling crackdown

While panhandling is not a crime, Manchester police are using the city's traffic safety ordinance to crack down on the individuals asking for cash from motorists at busy intersections. The Union Leader reported summons were issued to seven people seen panhandling along South Willow Street, only one of whom had a known address listed. Chief Nick Willard told the UL the next phase of the effort to curb panhandling will involve educating motorists to donate to organizations that provide services to the homeless rather than give money to panhandlers. Eventually, Willard said, they will start to issue tickets to the motorists themselves if they are seen disrupting traffic by giving cash to panhandlers.

Prescribing rules

The legislative task force working on emergency drug legislation was told by the New Hampshire Medical Society that it disagrees with the premise of a bill that would set limits on prescribing potentially dangerous painkillers. The Union Leader reported the Medical Society said medical regulatory boards, not lawmakers, should create the rules meant to curb overprescribing and abuse. The bill, as currently written, would limit the quantity of opioids prescribed in emergency rooms by specific amounts and time periods.

U.S. Attorney

The next U.S. Attorney for the district of New Hampshire has been selected. The AP reported a Senate committee approved the appointment of Emily Gray Rice. Rice, a Concord resident, was appointed by President Obama and had the support of both New Hampshire senators. Rice would replace acting U.S. Attorney Donald Feith. She now has to be confirmed by the full senate.

Oldest legislature

New Hampshire's legislature, already renowned as one of

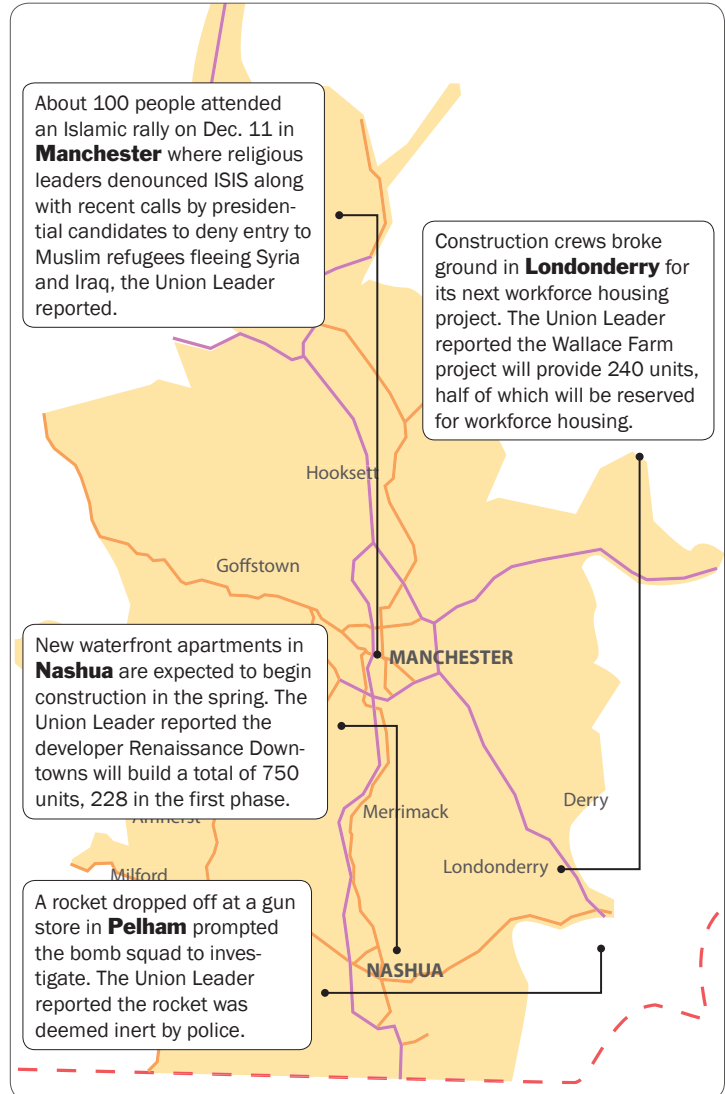
the largest in the English-speaking world, is now considered one of the grayest. NHPR reported the new status comes from a report by the National Conference of State Legislatures, which put together a demographic profile of each state's lawmakers. The average age of the Granite State's lawmakers is 66. Idaho, New Mexico and Vermont hold the next three spots among the "oldest" legislatures.

Drug education

A bill getting fast-tracked from the joint legislative task force creating emergency bills to tackle the drug crisis would mandate drug and alcohol education in K-12 classrooms. NHPR reported the bill would require all public schools to set aside time each year for teaching the dangers of addictive substances. Schools are already required to provide drug education, but not every year. According to data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, New Hampshire's teen substance abuse problem is tied for worst in the nation.

Video in class

Vague language in a new state law governing the use of video recording in classrooms has led the Manchester school board's Coordination Committee to review district policy. The Union Leader reported the law requires permission be granted by teachers and parents before recording takes place in a classroom, but does not specify how often this must be done or how many permission slips to obtain. It also doesn't shed light on recordings by students with disabilities. A revision to the law will be presented



in the upcoming legislative session which aims to clarify some of these points, by clearly allowing students with disabilities to record video for instructional purposes.

Topless bill

A bill sponsored by Lakes Region lawmakers would amend the state's indecent exposure and lewdness law to include female toplessness as a misdemeanor. The Concord

Monitor reported this comes after a summer of Free the Nipple activists went to beaches topless en masse. The leader of the movement was ticketed in Gilford, and she's challenging the ticket's constitutionality in court. The bill is an effort to bolster municipal ordinances with an update to state law since it currently could be argued state law does not empower the enforcement of rules against toplessness. 🐟

BEST WEEK

REMEMBERING A HERO

The Brentwood police officer who was gunned down while responding to a domestic dispute last year, Stephen Arkell, has been memorialized in the form of challenge coins handed out by the Rockingham County Law Enforcement Officers Association. The Union Leader reported about 40 coins were given to family members, first responders and dispatchers who were on duty when, on the afternoon of May 12, 2014, Arkell died in the line of duty. Another 10 coins were given to officials during a recent ceremony, and a coin is going to be placed on display at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington, D.C. Additional coins can be purchased for \$10 each. The proceeds will benefit the Officer Stephen Arkell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

WORST WEEK

HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE

The Maine-based co-op Community Health Options is leaving the federally managed state health exchange. NHPR reported CHO was one of five insurance companies in the exchange. The company cited high costs as the driving factor and said it will continue to insure those who signed up on its plans already. Subsidized health plans on the exchange tend to get purchased by the sickest individuals, causing the costs to insurers to rise. The company will continue to sell in the employer market.

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By Ryan Lessard
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Just scratching the surface

N.H.'s granite industry thriving

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Trump endorsed by police

The New England Police Benevolent Association officially endorsed billionaire Donald Trump at an event in Portsmouth, while protesters picketed outside the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel. The Union Leader reported Trump told association members that he supports a mandatory death penalty for anyone who kills a police officer in the line of duty and thanked them for the endorsement.

DNC vs WMUR

The pension dispute at WMUR came to a head when Democratic National Committee officials decided to pull WMUR as a debate sponsor in the Manchester debate on Dec. 19. The Union Leader reported that the debate, which is being broadcast by ABC, will continue at the time and place as planned but WMUR will participate only as a news agency covering the event. At issue is a dispute between production employees who unionized earlier this year and the Hearst Corporation, which owns the station, over the timing of benefits negotiations. The DNC said it decided to cut WMUR as a sponsor because Hearst wouldn't move forward on scheduling the negotiations.

Carson to run as independent?

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson is threatening to run as an independent candidate in the general election amid fears that the GOP leaders will rally around a candidate of their choice and exclude him, Reuters reported. Carson had briefly led in the polls of Republican voters but his numbers have since fallen. In mid September, Carson had 17 percent of the vote. He now has only 6 percent.

Carly gives NH credit

At a recent campaign event in Manchester, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina credited her rise in stature as a presidential candidate to the state of New Hampshire. The Union Leader reported Fiorina said she embraced retail politics and called herself and anti-establishment candidate. Fiorina performed well in her first, second-tier debate and prime debates that followed. She remained in the top tier as a contender in the prime-time CNN debate on Dec. 15.

Paul confusion

After a Boston Globe story quoted Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul saying he will make an "announcement" if he doesn't get in the Dec. 15 debate, speculation around Paul dropping from the race spread like wildfire. Former New Hampshire gubernatorial candidate Andrew Hemingway mistook the article to be a decision to drop out and wished Sen. Paul well on Facebook. But Paul's campaign spokesperson said Paul is in the race until the end, according to Breitbart.

A lot has changed with the granite quarrying industry in the state named after its abundant sturdy mineral. There have been highs and lows, but with recent advances in mining technology, New Hampshire's quarrying industry may be on the rise again. In fact, Swenson Granite Works, which mines from its quarry on Rattlesnake Hill in Concord, said this year has been the best year the company has ever had — and it's been quarrying in New England since 1883.

Cutting it

About 10 years ago, Swenson Granite Works invested in diamond wire saws to cut out chunks of granite from Rattlesnake Hill. The long thin saw blades look, from a distance, like wire wrapped around a block of stone and attached to a machine that keeps the wire spinning and tightening. At first, the company wasn't sure if the investment was going to pay off, or if the upkeep of the machine would prove too costly.

"It's really just developed in the last five years as the wires have gotten cheaper," Kurt Swenson, the chairman of the board at Swenson Granite, said. "We're wire-sawing in all of our quarries now."

He says it's become a far more efficient way to mine granite. It requires fewer employees, it's safer, and it's less noisy. But most importantly, it allows them to produce more granite for less. The thinner wire blade means an extra inch and a half of stone with every cut, and the smooth-cut sides are more valuable than the jagged sides that come from splitting granite.

"We've had a terrific year, frankly. It's the best year we've ever had," Swenson said.

Swenson says sales and profits are up but would not say by how much.

Where it comes from and where it goes

Swenson Granite's executive vice president, Scott Herrick, says most of the granite that's cut from Rattlesnake Hill is used for road curbing. New Hampshire and Maine are the primary market, but they sell the road curbs in all New England states. Curb setters working in construction crews and general contractors purchase the curbs for their projects. They are used mostly for state and municipal roads.

Sales are up in the retail operation as well, according to Swenson. In the past 15 years, Swenson has gone from having a single stoneyard in Concord to seven locations throughout the state.



Photo by Liz Van Steenburgh.

Swenson Granite also owns Rock of Ages, which has quarries throughout the Northeast. In fact, about 90 percent of the landscaping and hardscaping products that Swenson retails at its stoneyard locations come from Vermont. The company's largest buyers of 10-foot-by-5-foot blocks of granite are in China. The blocks are used in the construction of high-end buildings in China and in other countries where Chinese firms have contracts to build.

There are two other quarries still considered active in New Hampshire, besides Rattlesnake Hill. They are located in Mason and Milford and are both owned by Rhode Island-based Granites of America. The company says those quarries are only mined on an as-needed basis.

"We are the only quarry in New Hampshire, quarrying full time for dimensional, deep-hole quarrying for cut-stone products," Herrick said.

Granites of America focuses on hardscape products and also some building material. Using granite for building is considered something of a luxury since the advent of concrete.

Meanwhile, the 180-year-old quarry in Concord is still going strong. Swenson produces hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of usable stone each year in New Hampshire.

The heyday

In the mid-1830s, a local printer and bookseller named Luther Roby purchased part of Rattlesnake Hill and turned it into the first true quarry in Concord. Donna-Belle Garvin at the New Hampshire Historical Society reports in an article she wrote on the subject that Rattlesnake Hill later came to be known as "the gold mine of Concord."

The first use of Roby's granite was in the building of Concord's first train stations. The trains were later used to transport the stone over long distances.

By about 1875, the industry was employing about 500 men while at least 11 other quarries had opened.

Herrick says even though the quarries were more crowded back then, they produced a lot less.

"In those days, without the aid of machinery and hydraulics and electricity ... deep-hole quarrying was not what was done. They extracted the stone off the top and once the beds of stones got thicker, they generally abandoned the quarry because it couldn't be handled by oxen, horse, mule or manpower," Herrick said.

Competition was fierce. Largely in response to Roby's success selling granite to Massachusetts builders, businessmen from Massachusetts bought up most of the quarries in New Hampshire, including Roby's. Rattlesnake Hill was honeycombed with several different quarries.

The granite was used for major buildings, bridges and dams and the period following the Civil War became characterized by monument building as well. Perhaps the most notable project that used Concord granite was the construction of the Library of Congress.

But by 1920 only a quarter of the quarries active in the late 19th century were still in business because steel and concrete began to replace granite as a building material.

Swenson says other granite businesses closed during the Great Depression and World War II and after increased international imports in the 1970s.

While economies boom, bust and evolve, New Hampshire's granite remains the same and will be abundant for thousands of years, Herrick said.

"Certainly, for centuries we've really done nothing but scratch the surface," Herrick said. "We'll be on Rattlesnake Hill for as long as the business exists." 🗨️



Live Free or Die Alliance



Courtesy photo.

Who they are: The Live Free or Die Alliance was founded in 2008 by a group of citizens from all over the state, representing all types of political persuasions. There was concern among the founders that laws were being passed that would affect future generations while citizens paid little attention to the legislative process.

What they want: The group wants to harness technology to encourage bipartisanship and civic engagement based on the philosophy that good information leads to good decision-making.

Current goal: Educate voters on all the presidential candidates, their records and policy positions through a mobile app called the NH Voter Guide 2016, which will be released soon.

VIPs: Board Chair Anna Grace Holloway, co-founder Paul Holloway, co-founder and board member Paul Montrone and co-founder Gary Hirshberg, the former CEO of Stonyfield. Other board members include Andy Crews, Mark Thurston, Rick Samson, Katharine Eneguess and Lew Feldstein. Tiffany Eddy is the group's spokesperson.

Find them at: P.O. Box 264, Freedom, email is info@livefreeordiealliance.com, website is lfda.org and phone number is 929-2665.

Campaign impact: Tiffany Eddy, the LFDA spokesperson, says the group's efforts in the 2016 election cycle will be modeled after the success of its efforts in 2014. During the midterm elections,

LFDA released its first app, the NH Voter Guide 2014, which included information on everyone running for the New Hampshire House and Senate.

"LFDA provides objective information on over 70 New Hampshire issues and on all elected officials," Eddy said.

The idea behind the app and its recently revamped website, besides introducing candidates, is to condense a depth of information on political issues for voters interested in brushing up.

"New Hampshire has a proud tradition of civic participation, but people get busy and they have lives," Eddy said. "So, what LFDA has done is try to bring some of those discussions and that proud tradition using technology, so people can continue the discussion online through our website, through Facebook discussions, following us on Twitter and keeping the engagement alive."

Eddy says LFDA resources offer residents an opportunity to learn what they need to know in order to be informed voters without spending a lot of time engaging with traditional media.

Right now, the group is tracking presidential candidates to provide voters with breakdowns and comparisons.

The LFDA website also offers an opportunity for readers to present their own views in discussion boards.

Eddy says the comments are compiled for each issue and sent to local lawmakers to inform them of what voters are saying. ★

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Tax talk

Rare tax amnesty program kicks off

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration is kicking off a Tax Amnesty Program for folks who owe taxes to the state (not local property taxes). It hopes to raise about \$16 million from the nearly \$24 million in outstanding taxes by giving a discount to taxpayers. The last time New Hampshire offered a program like this was in 2001. DRA Commissioner John Beardmore talked to the Hippo about the program.

Q: *How does this tax amnesty program work?*

The program is, as you say, an amnesty program. What amnesty means is that taxpayers, both industry and individuals that owe taxes to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration, can pay those taxes for prior periods for which taxes are due and receive amnesty from all penalties and one half annual interest. So, that's a pretty substantial savings to taxpayers that owe the department money for past amounts due. Those past amounts due could be in the form of what we refer to as a tax notice. A tax notice is a document that we send to a taxpayer that indicates taxes past due and owed to us. And it applies penalties and interest where applicable. So, we know about the tax and we've ordered the taxpayer to pay it. And that taxpayer has likely either appealed and not been successful or not appealed and that process has expired. So, one way or another the amount is due.

Is this unusual?

It's something that you'll see in tax jurisdictions from time to time. Connecticut did one, I believe, last year. Massachusetts did as well. But, typically, they do not happen very often, and it's been about 15 years since New Hampshire has offered [one].

Why are we doing it now?

There was interest both in the governor's office — it was part of the governor's proposed budget — and in the Senate. Sen. Sanborn filed legislation. So there was interest both in the executive branch and the legislative branch to provide some savings to taxpayers and some revenue for the state to support the state budget.

Where do you think that interest came from? Have we built up a backlog of outstanding taxes?

I don't think the backlog is any higher or lower than it typically is. There's always some amount that the department is working to collect, but it does make sense every so often to



John Beardmore

provide taxpayers with a good chance to get current at a savings to them. And it's a benefit both to the state on a revenue perspective and to the taxpayer in the form of pretty significant savings that otherwise would not be available.

What's the downside to doing a tax amnesty program?

Well, there is a cost to it. The state is forfeiting revenue in terms of revenue and interest that is owed to the state. Certainly, it's not something that ought to be done too often because there needs to be an incentive for taxpayers to comply with the law and not wait for such a program to come about. But I think New Hampshire's done a good job [spacing them out]. Every 10 or 15 years is a reasonable amount of time.

If an individual has back taxes due, what is the process for them?

If a taxpayer has received a tax notice from us, the process is to recalculate the interest — and penalty and interest are itemized on the tax bill — and remove the cost of the penalty. ... We have an interest calculator on our website because the annual interest changes from year to year and it accrues from the due date of the tax. ... Just write us a check for the tax due and half the interest and mail it in with the tax notice and it's as easy as that. ... We have an online pay application available on our website [as well].

Have you ever been late on your taxes?

I have not. No, I can't say that I have been.

Why do you think some people fall behind?

We hear a lot of folks say that they're having cash flow issues. Almost all of our taxes are self reported. ... We do not send you a bill. So, perhaps there's a period of some fiscal distress and then part of the thought process here is, we're on the other side of a pretty rough recession. Perhaps folks, businesses and individuals fell out of compliance during some tough years and now's a good time to get into compliance at a pretty steep discount. — Ryan Lessard

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- **Community Health Options;**
- **Harvard Pilgrim Elevate Health;**
- **Harvard Pilgrim NH Network.**

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Mental health clubhouse closing

Granite Pathways in Manchester, a clubhouse for mental health patients modeled after Fountain House in New York City, is closing after five years in operation. The Union Leader reported the organization will close its doors on Dec. 31 after failing to convince lawmakers to allocate funds from the state budget. Granite Pathways also didn't qualify for grants from the Department of Health and Human Services because its program doesn't follow the peer-to-peer model of services. Instead, it relies on parental involvement. According to a press release, Granite Pathways needed \$125,000 in public funding to supplement \$150,000 from private donations to properly staff the clubhouse.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *Leaders of the organization said they helped people hold down jobs and stay out of emergency rooms, but state health officials said organizations must have mentally ill individuals on their boards as well as provide support and advocacy.*

Background check hole

Of all the New England states, New Hampshire has a new distinction: it's the only one that doesn't report the identities of those adjudicated to be mentally ill to the national background check database used in the purchase of firearms. The Union Leader reported the group Everytown for Gun Safety compiled FBI data to create a state-by-state scorecard, which shows New Hampshire lagging behind the region. Massachusetts and Vermont recently changed their laws to require disclosure starting this year. Without that disclosure, a background check performed during the purchase of a gun would not raise any red flags if the buyer has a dangerous mental condition.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *Several national polls, including one recently by Pew Research Center, shows 8 in 10 Americans (of both political parties) support laws that would prevent people with mental illness from buying guns.*

Drug overdose deaths to top 400

In the year 2015, New Hampshire will see more than double the overdose deaths of 2013, according to a NHPR story this week. About three hundred people have already died from drug overdoses, mostly from heroin and the powerful painkiller fentanyl, but in the story, New Hampshire Attorney General Joseph Foster estimated those numbers would top 400 by the end of the year, calling the epidemic the state's greatest law enforcement problem and most pressing public health crisis.

QOL Score: -2

Comment: *Foster addressed a legislative task force last week, which considered a grant program to provide state money to counties to establish or continue drug courts. Initial estimates are around \$3.1 million for the 2016-2017 budget, according to the story.*

Gas prices sub \$2

QOL got gas for \$1.89 per gallon in Derry the other day, the first time the number's hit under \$2 since 2009. According to gasbuddy.com, average New Hampshire prices are about \$2.03 per gallon, compared with \$2.01 per gallon nationally. This number represents a drop of more than 50 cents from a year ago, when New Hampshire prices were around \$2.67 per gallon and national prices were about \$2.55 per gallon.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *And QOL had thought \$2.67 was low. Low gas prices means more money for presents.*

QOL score: 83

Net change: -3

QOL this week: 80

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

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50

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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

Emptying out a cluttered sports mind



After the Patriots aligned fears of a possible collapse with a solid 27-6 defeat of Houston on their home field, panic has been averted. So with things back to normal and having seven shopping days left before Christmas it's time to clear a little space from the thoughts that have been piling up in this cluttered sports mind.

I guess it's time to start taking Carolina seriously, because after pounding perpetually overrated Atlanta 38-0 on Sunday, next are road games with the Giants and Atlanta again and then they finish at home vs. Tampa Bay. So unless the who-knows-what-they'll-do Giants get them they'll be going to the playoffs at 16-0.

First **LeSean McCoy** hangs up on **Chip Kelly** after he calls during the week to make amends for mishandling things when he traded him last spring, and then after the Bills lose to Philly in Philly he refuses to speak to the media. Time to grow up, young man.

Speaking of the G-Men, does anyone want to win the NFC East? I mean even the decimated Cowboys can still win the division.

After the first six weeks here's my revised assessment of the Celtics. I think they're going to win 50 games and can beat any team in the East in a playoff series except Cleveland. Didn't say will, but can. That is if they make them, because of all of sudden the Eastern Conference is far deeper than the West.

But **Evan Turner**, can you please explain to me what possibly could have been going through your mind when you did a 360 dunk on a breakaway in a tightly contested and important 35-35 game with Chicago last week?

After doing what he does best in building the productive farm system that helped get the Cubs to 92 wins, **Theo Epstein's** back at what he does worst: giving out questionable

gigantic long-term contracts. He just spent \$276 million on **John Lackey**, **Ben Zobrist** and **Jason Heyward**, who got a ridiculous \$186 million. For his \$23 million per year over the next eight years, he got a very good right fielder who'll move to center and a .268 lifetime hitter who's hit more than 18 homers just once in six years. Last year it was .293 and 13 with 60 RBI. In other words, he's not even as good as **Carl Crawford** was when he overpaid him to come to Boston.

For those who think coaches are soooo important: What do you make of Golden State winning 24 straight with the much-praised **Steve Kerr** on the sideline recuperating from back surgery? To me it's if you got the best players you win and if you don't you don't.

That's why I've always said if **Jimmy Rogers** had had **Jordan**, **Shaq** and **Kobe** in their prime he'd have the 11 rings and **Phil Jackson** would just be that guy who used to play for the Knicks in the '70s.

Having said that, you've got to love the story of Golden State and **Steph Curry**, who I didn't think would come within three time zones of how good he's become.

Earth to those who don't think **Wade Miley** should have been the one traded because he pitches 200 innings every year, while **Clay Buchholz** and **Joe Kelly** never have. Given their pitching depth, that's easily handled. Just plan to get 140 each from Buchholz and Kelly, with the rest going to **Henry Owen**. Owen may not be a certain thing, but in 2015 he did give up just one earned run or less in seven of his 11 starts. As for Miley, by adding **Carson Smith** (70 innings, 46 hits, 92 Ks, righties hit .166 against him) the bullpen got better and deeper, which is far more important these days than a mediocre fifth starter whose ERA has risen four straight years, durable or not.

From the Now I've Seen Everything department: **Steve Sarkisian** got fired at USC because he allegedly showed up for work drunk. That came on the heels of get-

ting reprimanded for being wasted and acting inappropriately at an alumni fundraising event, and now he's suing USC for \$5 million on claims his drinking problem is a "disability." And if you need another reason to hate lawyers, here's what his said announcing the lawsuit: "at his time of need USC kicked him to the curb." Putting aside the notion that good coaches teach personal accountability, it's astonishing how far the victimization of America has gone, where a guy allegedly going to work drunk says he's the "victim" and the employer he repeatedly embarrassed is the "bad" guy. Simply amazing.

Here's another. If the allegations are true, how could those involved in the Louisville hooker/recruiting scandal not think they would eventually get caught? It brings to mind **Rick Pitino's** oft-mentioned quote, "If you tell a lie it becomes part of your future. If you tell the truth, it becomes part of your past." So which one is this one, Rick?

And one more. Got nothing against the players at AL-LA-Bama, but here's why I want Michigan State to CRUSH **Nick Sabin's** team on New Year's Eve. Because when Sabin took the LSU job in December 2000 he walked out on Michigan State just before their Bowl game, because recruiting for his new team was more important than sticking with the kids who helped him get the LSU job before their biggest game. That is the definition of a faithless dog. Ditto for **Brian Kelly**, who did the same thing to the kids at Cincinnati when he left for Notre Dame. Boooooo!!!!

Finally, as we wait to see if **Ken Griffey Jr.** becomes a first-ballot Famer next month, here's a good stat. He hit 630 career home runs over 22 years. However, thanks to injuries in his prime he had five years where he played less than 84 games and less than 112 in two more. That's almost three full seasons missed, which probably cost him at least 100 more homers.

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Monarchs hangin' in first place

The Big Story: Despite losing two of three over the weekend, the 16-9-0-1 Manchester Monarchs started the week leading the Atlantic Division with a one-point lead over Adirondack 33-32. They are second in goals scored in the ECHL with 80, though their +7 goals scored to goals allowed is way down the list, but it does say the Ms have been playing in a lot of close high-scoring games.

Sports 101: Name the four people to win the Heisman Trophy and be named Super Bowl MVP.

Local Break-Out Game of the Week: To SNHU freshman **Hannah Neild** of Litchfield, who had a game-high 15 points to go along with six rebounds and three steals when SNHU suffered its first loss of the season in a 64-44 thumping by Merrimack on Wednesday.

Nick of Tyme Award: To the Manchester Monarchs' **Zac Larraza** for giving the Ms their only lead of the game by scoring with 20 seconds left on Wednesday in a 4-3 win over the colorfully named Brampton Beast.

The Numbers

1 – catch for 20 yards by Londonderry alum and Houston Texans tight end **Ryan Griffin** when he faced the Patriots as they got back on track with a 27-6 win Sunday night.

6.1 – points per game averaged by Londonderry alum **Aliza Simpson** in the first nine games of the year for the 6-3 UNH women when she's displayed an all-round game by averaging 4.1 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.7 steals per game.

14 – consecutive wins for the Naval Academy in their

storied rivalry with West Point after beating them again on Saturday 21-17 in the 116th rendition of the game.

16 – points scored by **Kate Balcom** and **Kelsey Coffee** to goal with 10 rebounds and 11 assists respectively in leading Londonderry to a convincing 51-32 opening-night win over Alvirne.

17 – game-high points scored by **Amanda Lemire** as she led Pinkerton to a 46-40 opening-night win over Central when **Marissa Stacey** and **Taylor Frost** chipped

All-Name Team: No word in yet whether emerging Patriots DB **Logan Ryan** was mixed up at birth with the **Ryan Logan** who had 12 for Stonehill on Saturday at SNHU.

The Numbers: The number 16 is lucky for UNH sophomore gunner **Andrew Poturalski**, who after scoring twice in Friday's 6-3 win over Dartmouth now has 16 goals and 16 assists in 16 games, which adds up to a nation-leading 32 points.

Sports 101 Answer: The dual Heisman and Super Bowl MVP winners are **Roger Staubach**, **Jim Plunkett**, **Marcus Allen** and **Desmond Howard**.

On This Date – Dec. 17: 1991 – Cleveland Cavaliers set the NBA's all-time margin when they crush Miami by 68 points, 148-80. **2003** – The great **Otto Graham**, who took the Cleveland Browns to 10 straight championship games in his 10-year NFL career, dies at 82. **2008** – The maybe even greater **Sammy Baugh**, arguably the best NFL quarterback prior to Graham's arrival on the scene, dies at 94. 🌧️

in for a combined 22 more while **Jenna Chrabolowski** led the Green with 12.

24 – career high points scored by **Chris Walters** as SNHU handed Stonehill its first loss of the year on Saturday in a 59-57 Penmen win.

29 – turnovers forced by the suffocating full-court Bedford defense, which used a 24-3 third-quarter blitz to turn a 27-16 halftime lead into a 65-29 win over Concord when **Maddi Blake** was high for the Bulldogs with 10 points. 🌧️

Sports Glossary

Jimmy Rogers: Six-time world champ as an assistant coach under **Bill Fitch** and **KC Jones** in Boston and **Phil Jackson** in Chicago who flunked out twice in short head coaching stints with the Cs and T-Wolves.

Ken Griffey Jr.: All world center fielder who came to the majors in 1989 at 19 and left the building 22 years later with a sixth-best-all-time 630 homers. In the peak years starting at 26 in 1996 he averaged 118 runs scored, 137 RBI and 49.8 homers over the next five years before the avalanche of injuries hit after he arrived to join the hometown Reds in Cincy.

Wade Miley: Reasonably priced lefty just flipped to Seattle for reliever **Carson Smith**. The career high was 2012 when he was 16-11 with a 3.33 ERA for Arizona. In 2013 it was 10-10 and 3.55, then 8-12 and 4.34. Last year in Boston it was 11-11 with a 4.46 ERA over 193 innings in 32 starts.

John Lackey: 37-year-old hurler who just got \$32 million over two years from Chicago following a respectable 13-10, 2.55-ERA season with the Cardinals in 2015. Before that it was one decent, two mediocre, one missed for **Tommy John** and one horrible season for the \$86 million Theo previously gave him to play in Boston.

Ben Zobrist: Versatile, glue player who spent last year bouncing from Tampa to Oakland before landing in KC, where he hit .284 in 56 games in helping the Royals win the World Series. The 34-year-old got \$14 million per in a deal that will conclude when he's 38.

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HOW HESSER FAILED

A look at the 115
year old school
that's closing its
doors for good

By Ryan Lessard
and Kelly Sennott



The 115-year-old Mount Washington College, formerly Hesser College, in Manchester is a drab scene these days.

The parking lot is barren, and the hallways are quiet, almost completely devoid of students. Closed office doors are accompanied by empty side mailboxes, and the welcome sign is a poster asking you to check in at the front desk upon entering. Even the school's Facebook page has little activity, with no posts since the Aug. 4 announcement: The school will close this spring due to declining enrollment.

The college, which renamed itself Mount Washington College in 2013, was purchased in 2000 by Kaplan Inc., a for-profit corporation headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, that owns campus and online institutions across the country. In the last 15 years, MWC has seen six presidents and a variety of changes, including the new name and, also in 2013, new online program offerings.

Those changes a few years ago did not have the desired effect. The college, which once had five campuses across southern New Hampshire, closed its Concord and Portsmouth locations in 2013, followed by its Nashua and Salem campuses in 2014. The Manchester spot on Sundial Avenue is, for now, all that's left.

It's not the first New Hampshire higher education institution to fail in recent years;

it follows Chester College, which closed in 2012, and Lebanon College, which shut down a year ago.

But once upon a time — as recently as 2009 — it seemed that Hesser was on a similar path to success as Southern New Hampshire University. One was a non-profit, the other a for-profit, but they both had rich Manchester histories, both targeted non-traditional students, and six years ago their enrollment numbers were similar, with Hesser around 4,500, SNHU around 4,700. This year, Mount Washington College reached a low of just 500 undergrads, while SNHU's fall undergraduate enrollment numbers, including campus and online students, totaled more than 43,000.

So, what went wrong? The answer is a perfect storm of factors, some local and others part of what's unfolding on the national stage for higher education.

A SPEEDY DECLINE

The Mount Washington College Board of Trustees said low enrollment was the reason for the decision to cease operations. Indeed the numbers show a rapid decline. In the fall of 2009, Hesser College had 4,512 students, the highest it had ever seen, but it went downhill from there. In 2010, fall enrollment decreased to 4,148, and it steadily fell to 2,284 in 2013, according to numbers taken from the Integrated Postsecondary Education

Data System.

In June 2013, the board announced Hesser would undergo major changes, the biggest of which was renaming it Mount Washington College in an attempt to serve students beyond New Hampshire. The name “connotes a substantial institution that provides high-quality outcomes to students,” Hesser Interim President Andrew Temte said in a Union Leader article. At the time, Temte was also president of Kaplan Professional Education, having taken over after former Hesser President Jacquelyn Armitage retired earlier that year. In addition, the school began offering online-only associate and bachelor degree programs in business administration, with the goal to better serve busy adult learners.

Months later, the school announced it would close its Concord and Portsmouth campuses because enrollment was still low. When numbers dropped to 1,511 in 2014, Nashua and Salem campuses were also shut down, and by 2015 there were just 500 undergraduates on campus and online.

Daniel Webster College, the state's only other degree-granting for-profit since ITT Technical Institutes purchased it in 2009, also saw decline during this period, moving from 787 students in 2009 to 648 in 2014.

In contrast, SNHU saw enormous growth during this period. It started the fall of 2009 at 4,777, and from there it grew, to 5,347

in 2010, then to 7,630, 11,110, 18,083 and 29,353 from 2011 to 2014. Today, there are a grand total of 43,440 undergraduates, according to SNHU's institutional research department. About 7 percent of those undergrads are on campus.

Community colleges, Manchester Community College in particular, also saw fairly steady growth from 2009 to 2015, with numbers ranging from 2,559 to 3,455. Today, MCC has approximately 3,139 students.

Spokespeople for Mount Washington College and its parent company Kaplan declined to comment on the reasons enrollment became low during this period, and they declined formal interviews.

“The simple fact is that enrollments steadily declined over time. Campuses were correspondingly consolidated. We did not see the enrollment trend reversing in the near future, despite the hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff that never wavered. The College's Board of Trustees made a decision that was in the best interest of the students,” said Stephen White, Mount Washington College spokesperson, in an email which then stated the school had no additional comment.

THE HISTORY OF HESSER

Despite the recent decline in enrollment, the school had a modest yet steady growth for the first 98 years of its life.

Joel H. Hesser founded Hesser Business College in 1900 at 913 Elm St. in Manchester. According to history blogger Janice Brown, the 1901 Manchester Board of Trade Report shows that early courses included bookkeeping, shorthand and typing.

The school was small, it was local, and it moved to multiple locations those first 15 years — to 1017 Elm St., to 146 Concord St. and 155 Concord St. Joel Hesser purchased Bryant and Stratton's Business College in Manchester in 1925, and continued shepherding the school until his death in 1945. The Mount Washington College website says his daughter, Gladys Hesser Lord, was next in line and gained ownership with her husband, Captain George Lord, until 1967, at which time former Director of Operations Mildred Goff took the helm as president. In 1969, the board approved Hesser Business College's request to change its name to Hesser College.

The college focused mainly on business but diversified later. Early graduates were likely entering the workforce in administrative and clerical positions, according to Patricia Edes at the Division of Higher Education.

But Hesser's golden age began when a new family stepped in to steer the school.

In 1973, Kenneth Galeucia, a retired businessman from Massachusetts, purchased the college.

As his son Richard "Dick" Galeucia

remembers it, Ken Galeucia saw the school as a sort of pet project.

"I think it was something that he wanted to play with. He had retired from industry, he was running a small consulting firm and it gave him something to do. I think he saw some small potential in it and he decided he was going to try to do it," Galeucia said. "It wasn't to make a lot of money."

Almost immediately he began efforts to expand the school. In the early 1970s, Galeucia merged Hesser with Concord College in Concord, which had been around since 1887 and had been offering associate's degrees for accounting, management and computer science by the 1970s.

Ken Galeucia became the school's president and started to create satellite locations in other parts of the state. Between 1975 and 1980, a second location was opened in Nashua, and they relocated the Manchester campus from the building on Concord Street to another building on Lowell Street, where it had more room to grow.

Dick Galeucia began working at Hesser in 1981 and his younger brother Linwood, who would become president in 1987, joined a couple years later. Dick served as executive vice president and treasurer.

In the 1980s, they opened enrollment for Portsmouth classes, and Nashua's classes moved to a more permanent location.

In 1990, Ken Galeucia, the family patri-

UNDERGRAD ENROLLMENT

SNHU's enrollment has shot up in the past 6 years, while other local schools have seen smaller fluctuations and, in Hesser's case, severe decline.



Numbers come from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

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died. The same year, the Manchester campus moved for its last time, to its present address on Sundial Avenue. The school later opened sites in Salem and Concord, and students studied business, computer science, early childhood education, criminal justice and accounting.

Galeucia says the time when his family owned the school was when it was most successful. He points to the rapid expansion of facilities and enrollment to bolster the claim.

"They had 150 students [when my father bought the school], and when I came about they had 1,500 students. And when Lin and I sold the school we had 3,500 students," Galeucia said.

Meanwhile, Galeucia credits new and upgraded degree programs, a few new bachelor's degrees (in business administration, criminal justice and accounting) and advertising for much of Hesser's success in the 1980s and '90s. But, he says, the thing that probably helped the most with keeping their programs up-to-date was advisory boards. The boards consisted of industry leaders in business, criminal justice and other areas who were plugged in to the sectors that would ostensibly employ those who graduated from these programs.

Ultimately, he says the school got this far through the hard work and dogged determination of everyone involved, including its founder.

"Joel Hesser just kept on plugging. I found his diary one time, I had that in my hands. And he wasn't sure he was going to make it. But he kept on plugging," Galeucia said. "His enrollment was fairly low. It was well under 100 students, but he just kept on going."

Eventually, Dick and Lin Galeucia wanted to retire and decided against keeping it in the family.

They sold the school to Quest Education Corporation in 1998, the same year they opened the Concord satellite. Quest, a network of schools with a focus on medical studies, owned 30 for-profit schools by the time it was bought by Kaplan Inc. two years after that. Kaplan is a wholly owned subsidiary of Graham Holdings Company, formerly The Washington Post Company. It started in 1938 as a test preparation company, and after The Washington Post Company bought it in 1984 it began buying up other education companies, which it continued to do throughout the 1990s. When it bought Quest, it entered the higher ed world.

COMMON FOR-PROFIT ROOTS

Mount Washington College and Southern New Hampshire University together make a useful example of how colleges across the country have changed over the last century.

Tom Horgan, president of the New Hampshire College and University Council, says most of Hesser College's history was fairly typical of for-profits that were born in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

really been, all across the country, that they were small, private family-owned businesses. And they really provided training, specific training [like] secretarial skills or bookkeeping skills," Horgan said.

Just as the school began in 1900 as the Hesser Business College, SNHU began in 1932 as the New Hampshire School of Accounting and Secretarial Science.

"They were both sort of business schools, sort of locally owned and serving a very similar population," Horgan said.

By the 1960s, Horgan says, for-profit colleges were dropping like flies because the federal government had become increasingly involved in higher ed funding, which in turn required schools to adhere to strict standards for accreditation.

"A lot of them just closed across the country. Others just held on. Others changed, like New Hampshire College," Horgan said.

But in general, former SNHU President Dick Gustafson says, it was a time of expanding higher ed. Baby boomers were reaching college age, and lots of Vietnam vets were coming back with G.I. benefits.

"And at the same time, federal financial aid was really just beginning. The Pell grants and other grants that were available for college students were really targeted to non-profit institutions," said Gustafson, who ran SNHU from 1987 to 2003.

Just a few years before Ken Galeucia bought Hesser, the New Hampshire School of Accounting and Secretarial Science reinvented itself as a nonprofit and changed its name to New Hampshire College. It began offering bachelor's degrees just a few years before that.

"The two institutions diverged and then ultimately the family that owned New Hampshire College divested itself of it and turned it into a not-for-profit college, which really changes the focus and the mission and the purpose of the institution," Horgan said. "So, ultimately, the two [schools] went down very different paths."

According to attorney Brad Cook, a shareholder at the Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green law firm, which has represented SNHU since as far back as the 1950s, the school was founded by Harry Shapiro. After Shapiro died in 1952, his wife Gertrude made SPBG partner Bill Green the chairman of the board of directors. Cook said Gertrude Shapiro, Green and other members of the board agreed to turn the school into a nonprofit in order to gain "credibility" in the higher ed world. The nonprofit organization was registered, the assets of the school were conveyed to the new organization and new bylaws and articles of agreement were drafted. But the principal players remained the same. The board of directors became a board of trustees and Harry and Gertrude's son Ed would later become president of the school. Cook says the only transaction in the process involving money

the sale of farmland by the Shaprio family to the school, which was used for the future site of the campus, but Cook said they sold it for the same amount for which it was acquired.

After the change, they submitted to the regional accreditor to be reviewed, but Cook said even then it was believed accreditors looked more favorably on nonprofits than on for-profits.

"It was some real foresight and some real serious thinkers who were not worried about the buck," Cook said.

From then on, New Hampshire College pursued a path that would transform the college into a four-year liberal arts institution.

Dick Galeucia says a deal (called an articulation agreement) was in place between the two schools in the 1980s and '90s that allowed students with Hesser associate's degrees to start classwork at New Hampshire College as full-fledged juniors.

PATHS DIVERGE

In the mid-'90s New Hampshire College began offering online classes under Gustafson, who says they started with on-campus students only to work out the kinks. Today, SNHU has 70,000 online students, including both graduates and undergraduates, but back in 1995, the Internet was still kind of new and many schools were nervous about stepping into the online realm.

"People said, what are you, crazy? How could people possibly learn online?" Gustafson said. "We studied [the market] carefully."

Hesser, by contrast, didn't enter the online market until 2011, and by the time it attempted to rebrand itself as Mount Washington College and create an "innovative national online education platform," according to its website, other schools like SNHU had been offering online classes for more than 15 years.

Around this time, New Hampshire College expanded its campus in Manchester and opened satellite locations in Portsmouth, Nashua and Salem.

For the most part, programming at SNHU stayed the same and business remained the primary course of study. According to Gustafson, the purpose of building these satellite locations and going online was to diversify delivery and attract a variety of prospective students, working adults and veterans in particular.

Programming changes didn't start till the mid-1990s, when SNHU leaders began considering going after university status, delving into graphic design, psychology and other majors typically found at liberal arts colleges. Changing to Southern New Hampshire University in 2001 meant the school became more attractive to international students.

"In many countries, high schools are colleges. When you graduate, you go to university. We were trying to market to the international audience. That was part of it

attractive to international students," Gustafson said. "[Master's degrees] were also very strong, and we were beginning to look at doctoral programs, so it was just a natural development, to move to university status."

While Hesser offered a few bachelor's degree programs, it remained largely a two-year school offering classes in areas like criminal justice, business administration, early childhood education, psychology and information technology.

Galeucia says the mission of Hesser was very similar to that of a community college. Night school made up about two-thirds of the students, while day school filled the remainder, by Galeucia's estimation.

"As far as day school goes, [the] market was probably people who couldn't get into four-year schools initially and would come to Hesser for the first two years. It was a little bit more affordable for them because we were cheaper than the four-year schools," Galeucia said.

Still, Hesser's tuition was more expensive than community colleges'. According to the College Scorecard released by the federal government in September, the average annual cost (based on federal aid) for Manchester Community College over the past 18 years was \$14,315. For Hesser during the same period, the cost averaged \$16,841.

Horgan says Hesser's student market was like most other for-profit schools'.

"The for-profit institutions really are attracting more non-traditional students, are serving students that are looking for specific skills so they can improve their careers and get a better job," Horgan said.

For a while, the relationship between Hesser and SNHU was somewhat symbiotic. They both focused on non-traditional students, and while Hesser offered the gateway to higher ed, SNHU could step in for the student's last two years. But in more recent history, as Hesser fell under the flag of a major online education company and SNHU began marketing more aggressively, the two schools grew into a more competitive relationship.

EFFECTS OF RECESSION

In 2008, when the Great Recession hit, it made a significant impact on the higher ed world.

Barbara Brittingham is the president of the commission that accredits New Hampshire's colleges through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

"Every institution, in one way or another, had to pay more attention to their financial resources [after the recession]," Brittingham said, speaking about colleges generally. "It hit everybody, whether it was a decrease in endowment, whether it was families not being able to afford tuition, whether it was the state cutting the subsidies for public higher education."

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As MacKay points out, schools like Hesser may have actually enjoyed a boost in enrollment thanks to the recession. This tends to happen at community colleges, because, like Hesser, their market niche is career-focused, non-traditional students. When folks are laid off en masse, many of them are driven to the classrooms of these schools in an effort to improve their chances of employment.

This could explain why Hesser's fall enrollment shot up from 3,800 in 2008 to more than 4,500 in 2009.

MacKay believes it was the recovery, perhaps more than the recession, that caused Hesser to suffer enrollment declines.

"I think individuals have decided they don't need to pursue additional degrees or credentials in order to obtain a job, and they're ... more likely to be fully employed," MacKay said.

While the community college system has seen some enrollment declines in recent years due to the recovery, they weren't as dramatic as Hesser's.

COMPETING FOR STUDENTS

Brittingham says the region's colleges are all fighting over an increasingly scarce resource: high school graduates.

"The demographics of enrolling traditional-age students are very difficult in New England and in the northern part of the Midwest. And in New England, the farther north you go, the harder it gets," Brittingham said.

Horgan says the answer is to cast a wider net.

"Nineteen percent of the marketplace is that 18- to 22-year-old. The other 81 percent is a more non-traditional student that is looking to complete their education and ultimately improve their life and their career," Horgan said.

Shannon Reid, New Hampshire Community College System spokesperson, says the community colleges we know today evolved over the past several decades, with Manchester Community College alone having gone through eight name changes in its lifetime. For most of their history, they were technical schools with

a vocational mission. Students went there to learn welding and automotive mechanics.

"In about the 1990s, the colleges began to broaden their mission," Reid said in an email.

She says this played out partly in the form of expanded course offerings at the community colleges, which coincided with a rebranding from technical colleges to community colleges. But it also has a great deal to do with expanding articulation agreements with four-year schools, allowing community college students to more easily transfer to four-year schools.

"The university system and the community college system have worked hard on breaking down those articulation barriers," MacKay said. "There was some bias there, some prejudice [against community colleges]."

Manchester Community College President Susan Huard says this flexibility is to better meet student needs.

"We're not just one thing. We're not just technical, and we're not just transfer or business or health care. We have the flexibility of moving our resources depending on what's happening with the economy," Huard said.

Now that students can more easily use the community colleges as gateway schools to higher degrees, and with cheaper tuition, MacKay believes Hesser could no longer compete. Horgan agrees.

"I think competition with the community colleges was one of many factors that probably led to Hesser/Mount Washington closing," Horgan said.

According to the College Scorecard, community colleges have also offered better outcomes to students. The median annual salary of MCC graduates after 10 years was \$33,000, which is about the national average. Salaries after graduating from Nashua Community College were \$34,500, and from NHTI, \$37,700. The salary for Hesser grads was below the national average at \$30,900.

SNHU COMPETITION

Given this competitive climate, Horgan says, in the past decade or so, nonprofits like SNHU have stepped up their role in the

online education sector — a sector Horgan says had traditionally been the domain of the for-profits. MacKay echoes this.

"A number of not-for-profit institutions have decided that they need to be in the online or distance education space and have made significant investments in entering that space," MacKay said.

Entering that space is crucial for two reasons. The first is demographics.

The 80/20 split of non-traditional to traditional students is a refrain often repeated by SNHU President Paul LeBlanc, who has been at the helm since 2003 and is widely credited for expanding the school's online options.

"If you take a look at the pattern, adults are moving ... online," LeBlanc said.

The second reason is economy of scale: Schools can serve an exponentially greater number of students with far less overhead. As college costs skyrocket, schools are under increased pressure to control those costs.

But achieving economy of scale is still a point of controversy in the higher ed world.

University of New Hampshire president Mark Huddleston criticized what he called "nearly-for-profit" online colleges during his 2014 State of the University address, saying, "The first thing we shouldn't do is yield to pressures to commodify higher education, turn students into customers, and drive relentlessly to lower unit costs of production."

LeBlanc argues that since SNHU does not receive tax dollars as a private institution, it needs to be as nimble as a business in order to be successful.

"I think [being a private university] forces us in some ways to run more efficiently. We have to be more responsive. No one's going to come in and rescue us," LeBlanc said. "We're able to get [programs] up and running faster."

Marketing has also been crucial for SNHU growth. One of the first things LeBlanc did when he started in 2003 was have an outside marketing survey done about name recognition. Nobody knew who SNHU was.

"[Name recognition] was really low. I

mean, it was low in New Hampshire, and we were here. Never mind Mass. and the rest of New England," LeBlanc said.

About five years ago, he made it his mission to build a national brand, and they got to work with marketing.

REGULATORY CHALLENGES

During the 1980s and '90s, Dick Galeucia says, Hesser was making more than \$1 million in annual net profit, save for a couple years in the '80s when it lost money. But with great success comes more government oversight, especially if you are a for-profit school, Galeucia said. He said during the 20 or so years he was there, the school was audited by the IRS about a dozen times.

"And, of course, the [U.S.] Department of Education made it known they wanted to put for-profit schools out of business," Galeucia said. "We were the 'money-hungry' guys."

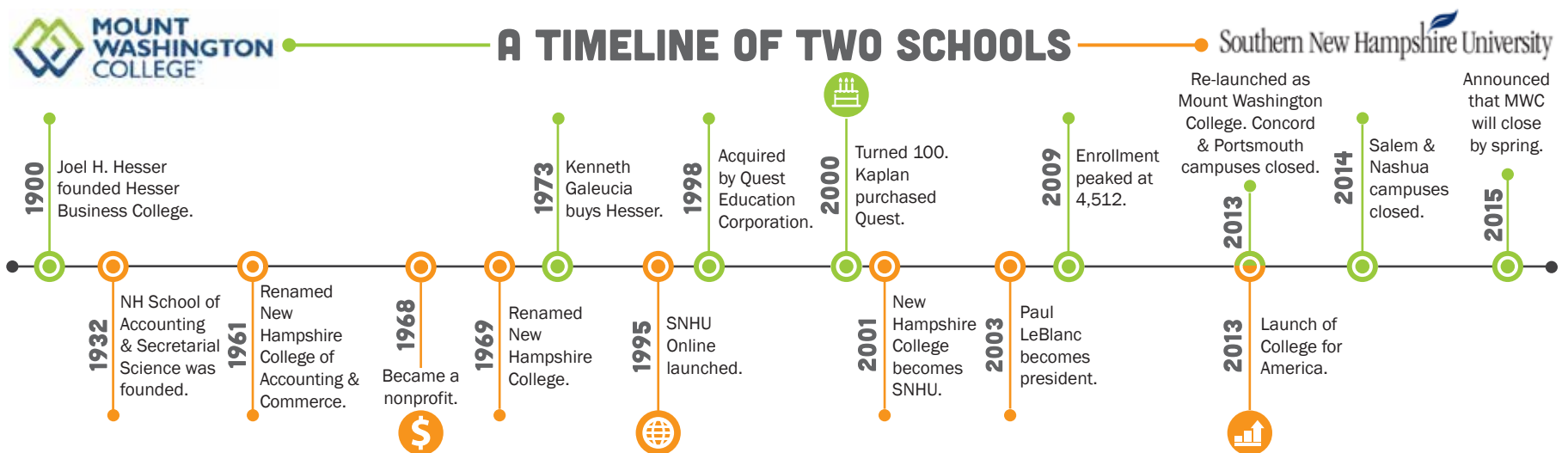
Back then, the critical sentiment among regulators, while a thorn in the side of Hesser, was not the killing blow more recent government crackdowns have been. Since 2010, when former Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa led the charge, the Government Accountability Office, the White House and U.S. Attorneys General have been aggressively mobilized against for-profits.

During Galeucia's time at the school, Hesser was accredited by a NEASC commission for career and technical colleges and vocational high schools. But in 2006 NEASC did away with that commission, and all the community colleges plus Hesser transitioned to the same higher ed commission that accredited all the four-year higher ed institutions in New England.

KAPLAN MANAGEMENT

After the school went corporate, things began to change.

In the past 17 years (at the end of Quest's ownership and while it was owned by Kaplan), Hesser saw at least six presidents, not including interim or acting presidents. According to the New Hampshire Department of Education, Robert Moon took over





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as president in 2000, and Mary Jo Greco succeeded him in 2005. In October 2007, John Roche was inducted as president. Harold R. Griffin served for a time until the end of 2009, after which Jackie Armitage took the reins from 2010 to 2013. The last president was Francis "Frank" X. Mulgrew, but he stepped down earlier this year. There were several interim presidents in between. Maureen Znoj, the vice president of operations, is the current acting president.

Kaplan representatives declined several requests to be interviewed, and current faculty were instructed by management not to speak to the press, according to a currently-employed professor. To do so would risk termination.

By 2012, the first signs of trouble appeared at Hesser. Kaplan closed the Manchester day school, shut down the dorms in the upper floors of the south wing and stopped leasing most of the west wing of the Sundial plaza, where it had medical and physical therapy laboratories, radio and television studio spaces, a fitness center and a library with tutoring services.

In 2013, when the school announced its name change and new online associate's and bachelor's degree programs for business administration and information technology, it was too little too late. The satellite schools began to close only months later.

Kaplan's other campuses have seen their share of scrutiny. In August 2010, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report showing Kaplan's California and Florida schools among 15 for-profit colleges whose recruiters encouraged prospective students to commit fraud on financial aid applications or misled them about things like tuition and post-college salaries. In response, Kaplan initiated a third-party "secret shopper" program at many campuses, including Hesser, to ensure malpractices were identified and fixed, according to its website, and it implemented a new performance system for admissions employees that encouraged them to report inappropriate behavior.

This summer, Kaplan paid a total of \$1.375 million to resolve allegations it inflated job placement numbers and employed unfair recruiting tactics at Kaplan Career Institute schools in Massachusetts, but it admitted no violations, claiming a settlement agreement was because of litigation costs. The company closed those schools by 2013.

In February, Kaplan sold the vast majority of its physical higher ed campuses (38 out of 42) to the Education Corporation of America in an all-stock transaction.

FOR-PROFIT STRUGGLES

Right now, it's hard to be a for-profit school.

"The for-profit higher ed industry has sort of really been rocked the last few years, in a combination of the feds really shining a light on some really poor practices, some abuses.

[They're] really coming down hard on them from a regulatory perspective," LeBlanc said, noting a particularly scathing story by the PBS documentary series *Frontline*, which revealed the University of Phoenix improperly gaining exclusive access to recruit on military bases by sponsoring events. Phoenix went from an enrollment of 460,000 about five years ago to less than half that today. Its former competitor, Corinthian Colleges, went bankrupt and closed in May.

Meanwhile, in November, Education Management Corporation was required to pay a \$95.5 million settlement amid allegations it lied about its recruiting practices, which some former employees characterized as high-pressure "boiler room" style tactics born of an illegal incentive pay plan. Once the second-largest player in the for-profit education world, EDMC's best-known brand is the Art Institutes.

LeBlanc says even for-profits following the rules are struggling.

"If you take a look at DeVry University, which is a pretty well-respected for-profit, actually — I often use it as an example as one of the better players — they're closing 17 of their physical campuses in the U.S. So what happened to Hesser is not unusual in the context of what's happening in the for-profit higher ed," LeBlanc said. (According to The Wall Street Journal, DeVry Education Group Inc. earnings also fell 73 percent in the last quarter).

LeBlanc thinks nonprofit status is something prospective students are looking for today, which wasn't always the case.

"Six, seven years ago, if someone looked at our online programs, they never asked if we were not-for-profit. ... Now they ask that question all the time. If you look at our commercials, we actually feature the phrase 'not-for-profit' quite predominantly because it's important for people. ... Students are reading about the questions about the quality of for-profit providers, and they're reading about the abuses," LeBlanc said.

Huard says Manchester Community College's nonprofit mission has helped the school garner both financial and public support.

For-profits, on the other hand, hold a primary fiduciary responsibility to shareholders.

"People ... invest to see growth in their investment," LeBlanc said. "Part of what happened in the for-profit sector is that shareholders and owners wanted to see the kinds of growth they were seeing five, six, seven, eight years ago, but that's hard to sustain."

Dick Galeucia doesn't know if Hesser could have weathered this storm better had his family, or another, been in control. But he knows it would have been a challenge regardless.

"I'm sorry to see it go, but I'm not surprised at it," Galeucia said. "I enjoyed it while I was there, I have no regrets for what we did and I feel sorry for the employees that were there."

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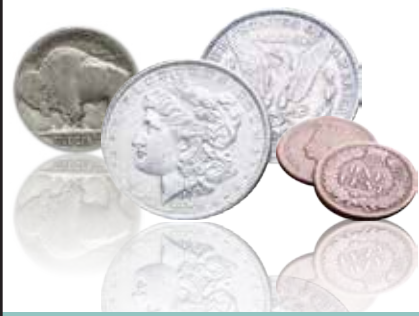
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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 17 - 23, 2015, AND BEYOND



Friday, Dec. 18

The long-awaited seventh installment of the *Star Wars* saga, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (PG-13), hits theaters. The film is set 30 years after the events of 1983's *Return of the Jedi* and follows Han Solo and his allies as they face a new threat from Kylo Ren and his Stormtroopers. Starring Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher.



Friday, Dec. 18

The Peacock Players present their annual take on *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Keith Weirich, at the Janice B. Streeter Theater (14 Court St., Nashua) with showtimes on Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. Ticket costs range from \$12 to \$17. Visit peacockplayers.org.

Eat: Gingerbread

Get creative and festive with a friend, family member or partner at The Culinary Playground's (16 Manning St., Suite 105, Derry) **adult gingerbread house decorating workshop** on Friday, Dec. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. Enjoy holiday music and hot cocoa or BYOB. The cost is \$35 per house. Visit culinary-playground.com.



Saturday, Dec. 19

Experience a **Victorian Christmas on the Farm** at the New Hampshire Farm Museum (1305 White Mountain Highway, Milton) on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the historic Jones Farmhouse with costumed role players, enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride, make a hand-dipped Christmas candle, roast chestnuts and popcorn over an open fire, enjoy gingerbread and hot apple cider, visit with the farm animals and more. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Visit farmmuseum.org.

Drink: Wine while you paint

Stop by IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua) on Friday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., for a **Paint and Sip** event. Participants will paint their own wine glasses with instruction from trained artists, then enjoy wine-tasting and light snacks. No experience is necessary, and all materials and tastings are included, as well as a bottle of wine to take home. The cost is \$50 per person. RSVP at incredibrew.com.



Tuesday, Dec. 22

The **Craftworkers' Guild Holiday Craft Shop** is open now through Tuesday, Dec. 22, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the historic Kendall House (5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford). Browse a variety of gourmet treats and crafts from more than 60 member artisans. There will be handmade holiday décor and ornaments, cards, pottery and ceramic arts, Shaker boxes, stained and fused glass art, mixed media, jewelry and more. Visit craftworkersguild.org.



Thursday, Dec. 24

Celebrate **Christmas Eve on the Oval**, a holiday tradition held at the Union Square Bandstand in Milford, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Family, friends and neighbors will come together for open-air Christmas caroling under the lights, with complimentary hot drinks and refreshments afterward. Visit lwccnh.org or call 673-9324.

Be Merry: At the Jingle Ball

Spend an evening dining and dancing at Zorvino Vineyards' (226 Main St., Sandown) annual **Jingle Ball Holiday Party** on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 6 to 11 p.m. The night starts with a cocktail hour and assorted hors d'oeuvres followed by a four-course dinner featuring wild mushroom bisque, roasted apple salad, roasted beef tenderloin and chicken oscar, and pecan and golden raisin bread pudding. Dancing continues until 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$58, and reservations are required. Visit vineyardeventsnh.com or call 887-8463.

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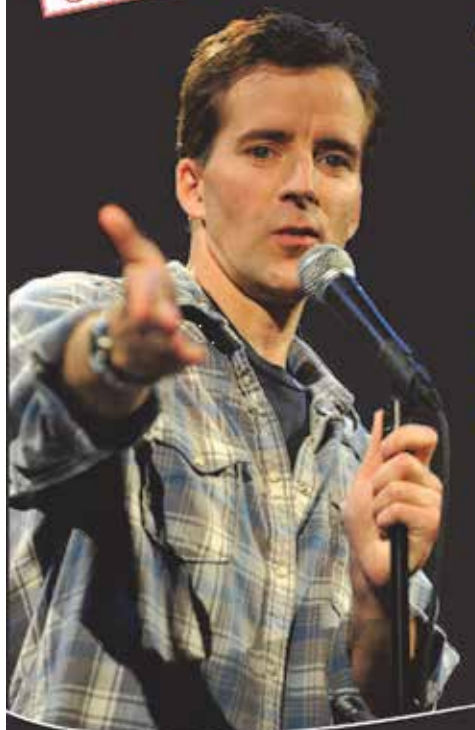
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Every Christmas story

The Majestic presents them all in one play

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

For a more comprehensive look at the season's most celebrated stories, the Majestic Theatre is presenting *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)* by John K. Alvarez, Michael Carleton and James FitzGerald Dec. 18 through Dec. 20.

Theater CEO and Artistic Director Rob Dionne said the aim was to produce something festive but a little different from the traditional holiday repertoire. He'd also remembered the Majestic Theatre's run of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* about 15 years ago, which audiences liked. Plus, the weekend available at the Executive Court Banquet Facility, where the company typically presents dinner theater shows, was the weekend before Christmas. Timing was perfect.

"We wanted to do something a little dif-

ferent," Dionne said. "And it's extremely fun and creative, the way the actors tell these stories."

The piece, originally published in August 2007, is a play that's kind of aware it's a play. It starts out with three actors — Rich Hurley and Adam Young of Manchester, and Mark Morrison of Haverhill, Mass. — who perform as themselves, actors who want to put on a Christmas show. One wants to stick with tradition and present *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, but the others protest. In the end, they decide to just go for it and tell them all.

Classic holiday stories like *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *The Grinch* — and OK, a little bit of *A Christmas Carol* — make appearances, as do international Christmas traditions and pop culture references. All are presented with a quirky twist.

Show director Kevin Barrett was prop shopping in the midst of his interview, looking for materials to make a gigantic pocket watch for the play's brief version of *The Gift of the Magi*. (Being a three-man show, it means one actor — Hurley — has to wear a "ridiculously long" wig for this vignette.) For the watch, Barrett's plan was to use a 30-inch wire wreath form to create a round structure to start with. Fabric and stenciled numbers might line the inside.

Barrett was also buying paint for the play's Charlie-in-the-Box from the Island of Misfit Toys, and for a giant Norelco Santa from the 1960s claymation commercials for close shaving. Large sets are fairly minimal, but before showtime, Barrett would



Mark Morrison of Haverhill, Mass., Adam Young of Manchester, Rich Hurley of Manchester. Robert Dionne photo.

also need to collect dozens of hats, wigs, beards, scarves, dresses and ugly sweaters.

Barrett chose the cast based on their ability to do comedy, and the show allows a bit of improv, a bit of flexibility, so company members can add their own personal touches. The play needed some updated pop culture references, anyway.

"Every rehearsal has been hilarious. It's been a very easy job for me as a director because of the nature of the show," Barrett said.

Young said he was excited to finally play Scrooge.

"I've never gotten to play Scrooge in my life. But there's a big twist to it. My Scrooge is different because I have to suddenly blend in the story of *A Christmas Carol* with all the others actors are throwing at me," Young said.

The play ends with a song, written by Dionne, called "The Most Famous Carols of All," which contains more than 45 holiday song titles and requires audience participation. Cast members will hand out lyrics, and they'll sing the refrain while audience members will chip in with the chorus. 🎵

Every Christmas Story Ever Told

Where: Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester

When: Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 20, at 1:30 p.m.; 24-hour advance reservations required

Admission: \$42 on Friday and Saturday, \$38 on Sunday, includes dinner (Chicken Marsala, sautéed chicken with white wine sauce, served with chef's choice of vegetable and starch; vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free options available with 48-hour notice, cash bar available)

Contact: 669-7469, majestictheatre.net

22 Theater

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24 Art

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Theater

Productions

• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** Written by George Hosker-Bouley. Thurs., Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m. Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. \$39.99, includes dinner. Call 926-0330.
• **WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL** Ogunquit Playhouse performs Irving Berlin show. Dec. 9 through Dec. 20. The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. \$42-\$64. Visit the-musichall.org. Call 436-2400.
• **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY** Nov. 25 through Dec. 20. Performances Wednesdays through Sundays.

Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell. \$23-\$60. Visit mrt.org, call 978-654-4678.
• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Rochester Opera House production. Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 2 & 7:30 p.m.; & Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. \$12-\$22. Visit rochesteroperahouse.com.
• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Palace Theatre production. Dec. 4 through Dec. 22. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. \$25-\$45. Visit palacetheatre.org. Call 668-5588.
• **OLIVER!** Seacoast Rep production directed by Miles Burns,

designed by Ben Hart and Brandon James. Nov. 13 through Dec. 20. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Tickets start at \$22. Visit seacoastrep.org, call 433-4472.
• **NOT ON THIS NIGHT** Garrison Players production. Fri., Dec. 18, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 3 p.m. Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4, Dover. \$1-\$18. Visit garrisonplayers.org.
• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Peacock Players production. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. Janice B. Streeter Theatre, 14 Court St., Nashua. \$12-\$17. Visit peacockplayers.org.

• **PANTO** Winnepesaukee Playhouse professional production. Dec. 18 through Jan. 2. Winnepesaukee Playhouse, 50 Reservoir Road, Meredith. \$12-\$16.
• **EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME)** Majestic Theatre production. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 1:30 p.m. Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester. \$28-\$42, includes dinner. Visit majestictheatre.net.
• **THE NUTCRACKER** New Hampshire School of Ballet production. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. \$15.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Ballet Misha production. Sat., Dec. 19, at 1 and 7 p.m. Stockbridge Theatre, Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry. \$20. Visit balletmisha.com. Email didmanchester@comcast.net.
• **SAVING SANTA PAPA** youth production, written by Miles Burns. Sat., Dec. 12, at 11 a.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 11 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 11 a.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. \$10. Visit seacoastrep.org.
• **CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO GABRIEL: A CHRISTMAS COMEDY** Emmanuel Baptist Church, Compellers Drama Team

production. Sun., Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 14 Mammoth Road, Hooksett. Free. Call 668-6473, visit emmanuelbaptistchurch.com.
• **PONTINE THEATRE PRESENTS: 8TH ANNUAL WEST-FEST** at West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, Dec. 26-Dec. 30. Clowning, juggling, physical comedy, magic, yoyo, etc. Visit pontine.org, email info@pontine.org, call 436-6660.
• **THE NUTCRACKER** New Hampshire School of Ballet production. Sun., Dec. 27, at 2 p.m. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. \$18. Visit palacetheatre.org.



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ARTS

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Notes from the theater scene

• **Eighty students, two shows:** Ballet Misha presents its annual *Nutcracker* production at The Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, this weekend on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1 and 7 p.m.

The dance company, which is affiliated with Dimensions in Dance and is directed by Amy Fortier, has a cast of more than 80 kids, some as young as 5, and a handful of professional dancers. This year's Clara is 14-year-old Molly Boll, who first saw *The Nutcracker* as a 3-year-old and told her parents she'd be Clara someday. Dancing pro from the Richmond Ballet and First State Ballet (and a company faculty member) Kelly Diamond will take the Sugarplum Fairy role.

"Our version of *The Nutcracker* has all the elements of a great story: love, enchantment, mystery, chivalry, an epic battle with a fight to the death, a journey to an exotic land, and it is all tied together with the magic of Christmas," Fortier said in a press release. "Our goal was to offer a high caliber, professional production that also gave as many children as possible an opportunity to dance and perform. As this is our seventh *Nutcracker*, I have watched children grow up in this production. They began as party girls and gingerbread cookies, and are now performing soloist roles." Tickets are \$20. Visit balletmisha.com or call 668-4196.

• **Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra welcomes first executive director:** PSO has hired Virginia Macdonald as its first executive director, according to a press



A couple of cherubs from Ballet Misha's *The Nutcracker* this weekend. Courtesy photo.

release, bringing to the 65-member orchestra 35 years of performance experience. She expects to expand PSO's educational and outreach activities in the community, with particular focus on developing programs for young musicians and forming collaborative relationships with other regional arts organizations. Macdonald, in addition to being a music teacher and having raised money for the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, has also performed as part of the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra, New England Wind Symphony, Exeter Town Band, Quintessence Woodwind Quintet, Whatever 4 Saxophone Quartet and the Seacoast Wind Ensemble.

"Ginna brings a wealth of knowledge and connections to the musical education community and we are excited to see how she expands the PSO's youth education initiatives and our community outreach," PSO board president Dr. Clinton Miller said in the release.

For a little more PSO, its annual Holiday Pops concert is Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m., at Cooperative Middle School, 100 Academic Way, Stratham, and Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets are \$25. Visit portsmouthsymphony.org.

— Kelly Sennott

• **THE WHITE CHIP** Merrimack Rep production. Jan. 6 through Jan. 31. Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell. \$23-\$60. Visit mrt.org, call 978-654-4678.

• **MUMMENSCHANZ** Theater artist performance. Wed., Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Free. Part of Gile Series. Call 225-1111, visit ccanh.com.

• **CHICAGO: THE MUSICAL** Rochester Opera House production. Thurs., Jan. 14, through Sun., Jan. 31. Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. \$18-\$26. Call 335-1992. Visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **THE CRUCIBLE** NH Theatre Project production. Jan. 15-31, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. New Hampshire Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. \$26.

Call 431-6644, ext. 5. Email reservations@nhtheatreproject.org.

Auditions/open calls

• **ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP AND FESTIVAL:** AUDITIONS Student playwrights include Adi Brezinski of Milford, Siraj Housainy of Amherst, Ben Shapiro of Merrimack, Olivia Cashman of Amherst. Student-written, directed and acted. Kids ages 11 to 18 welcome to audition. Sun., Jan. 3, 1-4 p.m. Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Email tobytarnow@yahoo.com.

Art

Events

• **RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** Exhibit of Russian art, icons, storytelling, cartoons, history, etc. Sat., Dec. 19, 11

a.m.-3 p.m. New England Language Center, 16 Hillside Drive, Rochester. Free. Email marina@anlanguage.org.

• **CELEBRATIONS IN ART: CURRIER COLLECTION TOUR** Tour of collection that focuses on different kinds of celebrations. Sat., Dec. 19, at 11:30 a.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with museum admission. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144, ext. 110.

• **ART TALK: VIVIAN BEER** Beer talks about the connection between high heels and her sculptural bench at the Scheier Gallery. Sun., Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144.

• **THE ANDRES INSTITUTE OF ART** Offers guided walking and audio tours of its sculpture park and studio. The Institute is open every day, dawn till dusk.

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ARTS

All in the family

Sisters show their work at art gallery

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Bethany Cole Rymes remembers sitting alongside her mother, Sally Ladd Cole, as a little girl, watching her paint in the family's dining room. Her mother taught lessons in the house, but sometimes she'd go out to the woods, easel in hand, to paint en plein air.

Her older sister, Hannah Cole Dahar, remembers watching their mother paint, too, and they both credit her for their decisions to pursue the arts.

"You couldn't help but get involved in it," Rymes said in her Concord art studio last week. She was working on the collection that would decorate the McGowan Fine Art Gallery this December, "Side by Side," containing work by both sisters. Light shone through two large windows, and her easel held a half-done abstract piece that, when completed, would ooze with color.

Rymes had taken off 10 years from painting to coach volleyball and work at the family business (Concord Sand & Gravel) and during that period, her artistic outlets were gardening, cooking and renovating the old Concord house she and her husband bought. She didn't begin painting in earnest again until May.

A bright salad and a compost bucket inspired her first pieces. Mostly, it was the colors, shapes and textures mixed together that caught her attention. Her initial thought was to go representational but she eventually decided to do away with detail and focus on her real interest: color.

"When I look at a painting, that's the first thing I'm attracted to. It's not necessarily how realistic something is, or where the painting takes place. It's the movement, the color," Rymes said. "That's the thing I work hard toward, or pay attention to — color relationships, and what moves forward and what moves backward."

Against her stark-white studio walls hangs her first-ever oil painting — a fruit still life she constructed while studying at UNH — and her first abstract pieces. Rymes keeps those bright compost photos on a shelf next to her easel and starts each painting with a violet blue colored pencil sketch.

"I've been following her work for a while. ... She's started to be more disciplined in her approach. There's a slightly retro feel to her



"Under Construction" by Hannah Cole Dahar. Courtesy photo.

pieces. I love her color sensibility. ... They hit you right in the face, and I like that in them," Sarah Chaffee, McGowan Fine Art gallery director, said via phone.

The sisters grew up with the same teacher, the same role model, but that's all that's similar between the work.

"Bethany has always been much more open to experimentation and extraction and is much more free with her color and mark-making. I've always been a little more drawn toward realism and more old-school painters," Dahar said.

Dahar, a Manchester resident, teaches at Windham High School, and she spoke between lessons via phone about her paintings, most of which were inspired by her husband and 3-year-old son Robert.

A large-format landscape painter for years, Dahar found what worked pre-baby couldn't work the same afterward.

"I can't travel as much. I don't have flexibility in my schedule," Dahar said. "I was feeling like I couldn't paint. ... And I was having a hard time setting up a studio at home. I set up a little still life of a pear. But my son kept zooming his truck through it."

She decided not to fight it. This painting became "Under Construction," which, in addition to a giant yellow pear, features a bright yellow toy truck and teensy traffic cone. Another painting was inspired by how she described "horsepower" to her son, and it showcases one giant horse and 11 tiny ones being escorted onto its back via fire engine. In "Tourist Trap," a violet rubber duck sits on a nightstand surrounded by winter mountains and plastic pink flamingos. Most paintings contain everyday objects, toys especially.

McGowan Fine Art has represented both mother and older sister, but this exhibition is Rymes' first art show.

"It's meant to be a mini-show, just as a way to introduce the work," said Chaffee, who's excited to present the sisters' work together. "Both have a wonderful, quirky sense of humor, yet at the same time are very serious about their art."

See "Side by Side"

Where: McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord

When: On view Dec. 21 through Dec. 31; reception Monday, Dec. 21, 5-7:30 p.m., portion of proceeds benefit Friends Youth Mentoring Program

Contact: mcgowanfineart.com, 225-2515

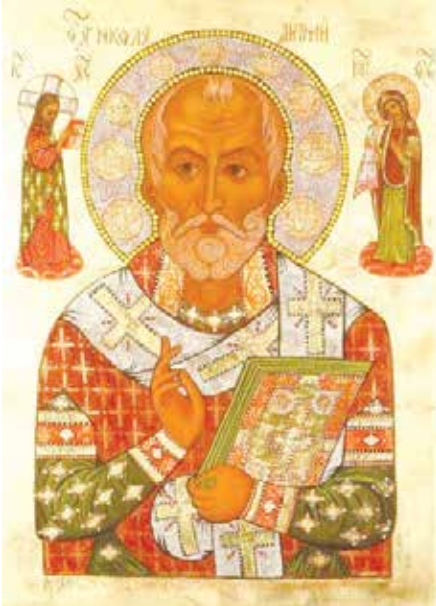
LOCAL COLOR —

NH art world news

• **Russian Christmas:** The New England Language Center's International Art Gallery (16 Hillside Drive, Rochester) holds a Russian Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., which will contain an exhibit of unique contemporary Russian art and traditional Russian icons and cartoons, plus storytelling and historical information about the crafts, according to the press release. Crafts include Matryoshka nested doll sets, Khokhlama bowls, spoons, candlesticks, hand-painted eggs, figurines, icons, Russian holiday greeting cards and carved wooden toys. Call 332-2255 or email marina@anylanguage.org or visit marinaforbes.com.

• **New folklife listings:** The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts announced that nine artists from the region have been added to the state's "traditional arts and folklife" listing (cultural and ethnic crafts, music, dance, etc.). The listing identifies areas of specialty and includes contact information for these artists for performances, demonstrations, workshops and other community-based presentations, according to the press release. Newest additions in our coverage area include Peggy Brenner, fly tyer from Milford; Molly Grant, shoemaker and cordwainer from Deerfield; Laurel Jamieson, fiber artist from Manchester; Hari Khatiwada, Indian folk musician/harmonium player from Concord; Bob Wyatt, fly tyer from Concord; and John Whiteside, guitar maker/luthier from Fremont. Visit nh.gov/folklife. Call 271-0791.

• **New mural project:** In honor of Tamworth's 250th anniversary, the Arts Council of Tamworth has brought mural artist David Fichter to work with students and area residents — though you don't have to live in



"St. Nicholas, the Miracle Worker" by Marina Forbes, featured at the Christmas Bazaar. Courtesy image.

Tamworth to participate — to create two large glass mosaics celebrating the historical, cultural and ecological attributes that make Tamworth special. For more information, visit artstamworth.org/250th-mosaic. There's a kick-off event where you can learn about the project on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Cook Memorial Library, 93 Main St., Tamworth.

• **Sharpen your drawing skills:** If you're looking for opportunities to keep busy and happy after the holiday season, there's a new drawing session class at Hobby Lobby, S. Willow St., Manchester, Saturdays from Dec. 26 through Jan. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. The class is intended for students of high school age and above. Call 624-5801.

• **New program at NHIA:** The New Hampshire Institute of Art just announced a new program at the school — a dual degree Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts in Art Education, which allows students to combine bachelor's and master's degrees in five years rather than six. (New Hampshire teacher certification has reciprocity in all 50 states, though some require an additional test.) Visit nhia.edu. — *Kelly Sennott* 🍀

The Andres Institute of Art, 98 Route 13, Brookline. free admission. Call 673-8441 or visit andresinstitute.org.

Fairs

• **DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET** Presented by InTown Manchester. Homemade local goods. Thurs., Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. Visit intownmanchester.com.

• **CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOP** Gourmet goodies, more than 60 member artisans selling work. Fri., Nov. 27, through Tues., Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Kendall House, 5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Craftworkers-guild.org.

In the Galleries

• **"YOURS, MINE, AND OURS: WORKS BY COLLABORATING CRAFTSMEN"** Artwork on view Sept. 28 through Dec. 18. League of NH Craftsmen's Gallery, 49 N. Main St., Concord. Visit nhcrafts.org.

• **"SEASONS"** Featuring art of Sandy Wadlington. Art show on view Nov. 17 through Dec. 19. McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Visit mcgowanfineart.com, call 225-2515.

• **"ARCHITECTURE IN NEW**

ENGLAND" Fine art exhibition. On view Nov. 19 through Dec. 19. McIninch Art Gallery, Robert Frost Hall, SNHU, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. Call 629-4622, visit snhu.edu.

• **"COZY"** NH artists celebrate joys and comforts of home in show. On view through Dec. 20. Twiggs Gallery, 254 King St., Jct. Route 3 & 4, Boscawen. Visit twigsgallery.wordpress.com. Call 975-0015.

• **"GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES"** Wild Salamander art show. On view Nov. 13 through Dec. 23. Wild Salamander Art Center, 30 Ash St., Hollis. Visit wildsalamander.com, call 465-WILD.



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YMCA of Strafford County, 35 Industrial Way, Rochester
YMCA of the Seacoast, 550 Peverly Hill Road, Portsmouth

www.graniteymca.org

UPCOMING CLASSES

You can fill up your cold winter days after the holiday season with art classes and workshops, like the "Nuno Felt a Scarf" course at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Nashua Gallery, 98 Main St., Nashua, taught by Melinda LaBarge. Students will learn "one of the fastest-growing techniques in felt-making," as described in the press release, and create a nuno scarf from a piece of hand-dyed silk, wool roving and a few embellishments. (Nuno felt is the integration of silk and wool roving to make one fabric.) Session 1 is Saturday, Jan. 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Session 2 is Saturday, March 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuition is \$55 and materials are \$35. The class is geared for adults and kids ages 12 and older, and prospective students should note that it requires standing for most of the day. Courtesy photo.

• **"THIS IS WHAT ARTISTS LOOK LIKE"** Portraits of 33 artists and their work. Photos by Jay Goldsmith. On view Oct. 23 through Dec. 24. Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth. Call 436-8433, email info@portsmouthhistory.org.

• **"LIGHT, LUMINOSITY, COLOR: A SELECTION OF PAINTINGS"** Exhibition with artwork by Mary Iselin. NHIA show. On view Dec. 4 through Dec. 24. Sharon Arts Center, 457 NH-123, Peterborough. Visit nhia.edu.

• **"SMALL WORKS, PERFECT FOR GIVING"** Seacoast Artist Association exhibition. More than 70 pieces by local artists. On view through Dec. 24. Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Call 778-8856.

• **EAST COLONY FINE ART POP-UP GALLERY** Featuring 24 artists' work for sale. On view Nov. 5 through Dec. 24. Salzburg Square Shopping Center, 292 State Route 101, Amherst. Visit eastcolony.com.

• **"ARTFUL GIVING"** Mill

Brook Gallery show, featuring art as low as \$20. On view now through Dec. 24. Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Call 226-2046, visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **"REFLECTIONS: FIVE VISIONS"** Featuring work by Sean Beavers, Judith Cooper, Sydney Bella Sparrow, David Preston Wells, Lindley Briggs. On view Oct. 23 through Dec. 24. Mill Brook Gallery, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Visit themillbrookgallery.com, call

226-2046.

• **BRUCE JONES STUDIO HOLIDAY ART SALE** Features New England landscapes, paintings by Don Stone, Arthur Jones, Cheryl Vratsenes, Claus Koop, Bob Roy. Dec. 1 through Dec. 24. Jones Studio, 28 Dogtown Road, Exeter. Call 617-592-5678.

• **"THE RABBIT HOLE"** Art exhibition that focuses on work that challenges and comments on perception through mixed media, video, GIFS, paintings. On view Nov. 6 through Dec. 26. Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Email katelenahan@nhia.edu.

• **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW** Featuring work by Tom Zack. On view Nov. 2 through Dec. 28. Hampstead Public Library, 9 Mary E. Clark Drive, Hampstead.

• **"NATURAL LIGHT"** Work by Harrisville photographer Michael Miller. On view Nov. 14 through Dec. 30. Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St., Hancock. Call 525-4411.

• **ROGER IRWIN** Photography show. On view through Dec. 31. Susan N. McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord. Call 224-9909. Visit nhaudubon.org.

• **"BRANCHES: A MIXED MEDIA SHOWCASE"** Featuring sculpture by Nancy A. French, paintings by Tamara

Gonda. On view through November and December. Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Visit nashualibrary.org, call 589-4600.

• **"STAMP TREKS"** Photography exhibition by Dave Thompson. Featuring works that celebrate the famous people, places and events on our nation's postage stamps. Focusing on subjects with New England ties. On view through December. Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth. Email dave@dtompson.com.

• **"RENEWING ENERGIES: FAIRY TALES, HEROES AND THE WISDOM OF STORIES"** Brings to life some of the world's tales with help from puppets, costumes and folk art artifacts. On view June 1 through Dec. 31. Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Visit mariposamuseum.org, call 924-4555.

• **RUNKUN CARA SONG** Showcase of calligraphy artwork. On view through December. Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth. Visit newnewstar.org.

• **NANCY TOBEY** Art exhibition. On view Nov. 2 through Jan. 2. Mandarin Asian Bistro, 24 Market St., Lowell. Call 941-350-6347.

• **"INSIDE/OUTSIDE"** Art 3 Gallery exhibition. On view

Oct. 13 through Jan. 9. Art 3 Gallery Fine Art, 44 W. Brook St., Manchester. Call 668-6650, visit art3gallery.com.

• **"MAXFIELD PARRISH: THE POWER OF PRINT"** Highlight of work by Parrish displayed in the form of vintage art prints, calendar illustrations, advertisements, magazine covers, etc. On view Oct. 9 through Jan. 10. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit currier.org.

• **"REMINISCENT: TEXTURE AND PLACE"** Featuring artwork by Stacey Durand and Erik Nohalty. On view Nov. 16 through Jan. 15. Derryfield School Lyceum Gallery, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit derryfield.org.

• **WHISTLER HOUSE MUSEUM INVITATIONAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION** Works by members of Lowell Art Association Inc. On view Nov. 18 through Jan. 16. Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen St., Lowell. Call 978-452-7641. Email sbogossian@whistlerhouse.org.

• **"SEASCAPE SERIES," "PEOPLE OF THE DAWN SERIES"** Art exhibitions featuring work by Ron Plante, showcasing Maine and NH coastal scenes, plus a 6-year study of Northeast Native Americans. On view Dec. 12 through



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HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m., the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 145 Lowell St., Manchester, hosts a concert featuring Handel's "Messiah," performed by the Cathedral Choir, the Diocesan Festival Chorus, Ensemble Ex-Cathedra and the Chamber Orchestra. On the agenda are snippets from the famous piece, from the overture to the "Hallelujah Chorus." Cathedral Director of Music Eric J. Bermani will lead the singers, and featured soloists include Karol Carroll, Courtney Eschbach-Wells, Eileen Christiansen, Travis Palmer, Marc DeMille, Sean Parr and Keith Strang. The cathedral is wheelchair-accessible, and there's a \$15 suggested donation at the door. Call 622-6404, ext. 31. Courtesy photo.

Feb. 19. Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn. Visit nhaudubon.org.
 • **"COVER STORY: THE ART OF BOOK BINDING"** Library-focus exhibition displaying book bindings and coverings the past 300 years. On view now Sept. 9 through Feb. 19. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit currier.org.
 • **"WINTER 15/16 EXHIBIT"** Featuring art by more than 2 dozen artists. On view Dec. 4 through Feb. 26. The Gallery at 100 Market St., 100 Market St., Portsmouth.

Open calls

• **CALL FOR ARTISTS: THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX** Looking for designs to go on traffic boxes in downtown Manchester. Includes \$400 stipend to cover time and materials. Submissions due by Feb. 22 at 9 p.m. Boxes to be painted spring of 2016. Manchester, NH Manchester. Includes \$25 application fee, though this is waived for students. Application at 550arts.com. Call 232-5597.

Workshops/classes/demonstrations

• **ARTIST'S LEGAL SERIES**

All events are presented by Kimberly Peaslee, Intellectual Property lawyer at Upton & Hatfield. "Copyright Registration: A Practicum" is Tues., Jan. 19, 5:30-7 p.m.; "Fair Use Trademark & Copyright" is Tues., Feb. 16, 5:30-7 p.m., McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Free, registration requested. Call 225-2515. Email gallery@mcgowanfineart.com, visit mcgowanfineart.com.
 • **TEEN NIGHT** Teen night at the studio. Fri., 5-9 p.m. You're Fired Studio, 25 S. River Road, Bedford. You're Fired Studio, 133 Loudon Road, Concord. You're Fired Studio, 264 North

Broadway, Salem. You're Fired Studio, 4 Coliseum Ave., Nashua. Studio fees are half off. Visit yourefirednh.com. Bedford 641-3473, Concord 226-3473, Salem 894-5456 and Nashua 204-5559.

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Events

• **CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS STORIES** Wassail and caroling led by Nanette Perrotte. Sebastian Lockwood reads two nostalgic Christmas stories, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and *A Christmas Memory*. Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. \$7. Call 924-4555.
 • **HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"** Fri., Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. \$15 suggested donation. Call 622-6404, ext. 31.
 • **ED GERHARD: 33RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GUITAR CONCERT** Soulful arrangements of well-loved carols. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth. Tickets \$28 in advance, \$32 at the door. Call 664-7200. Visit edgerhard.com.
 • **CONCORD COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL STUDENT RECITAL** Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Con-

cord. Free. Call 228-1196, visit ccmusicsschool.org.
 • **AMHERST TOWN BAND** Holly Jolly Family Spectacular concert event. Fri., Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall, 1 Union Square, Milford. \$5 entrance fee, free for kids 4 and younger. Visit amhersttownband.org.
 • **NEW HORIZONS BAND** Holiday concert. Sat., Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. Taylor Community Woodside Building, 435 Union Ave., Laconia. Free-will donation. Call 524-5600 to RSVP. Email clandroche@taylorcommunity.org.
 • **CONCORD COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL SUZUKI PROGRAM RECITAL** Sat., Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. Free. Call 228-1196, visit ccmusicsschool.org.
 • **6TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT & LIVING NATIVITY** Concert, hot cocoa, carillon music, living nativity event. Sat., Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. Brookside Congregational Church, 2013 Elm St., Manchester. Bring non-perishable food donations. Suggested \$5 donation. Visit brooksidecc.org.
 • **CONCORD COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL CELLO RECITAL** Sat., Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Con-

cord. Free. Call 228-1196, visit ccmusicsschool.org.
 • **PORTSMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FAMILY HOLIDAY POPS** Concert with holiday favorites and sing-alongs. Sun., Dec. 20, at 3 p.m. Cooperative Middle School, 100 Academic Way, Portsmouth. \$25. Visit portsmouthsymphony.org.
 • **FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD CITY AUDITORIUM HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** Featuring NH doo-wop group, The Rockin' Daddios. Pot luck, 2015 review, 2016 plans, concert. Sun., Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Free. Call 344-4747.
 • **PORTSMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FAMILY HOLIDAY POPS** Concert with holiday favorites and sing-alongs. Tues., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. \$25. Visit portsmouthsymphony.org.
 • **MODERN-DAY PERFORMANCE OF THE ODYSSEY** Storyteller Odds Bodkin puts together three-part performance in salon setting with Celtic harp and 12-string guitars. Sun., Jan. 10, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 17, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 24, at 4 p.m. Schoodacs, 1 E. Main St., Warner. \$50 for the series. Call 456-3400, email info@schoodacs.com.



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Click and Clack give you

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Get Listed

From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

Looking for more events for the kids, nature-lovers and more? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play or online at hipposcout.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE**A new look at the past**

New exhibits explore NH history

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

The Abenaki tribe, an election upset and a bizarre occurrence in the White Mountains are just a few pieces of Granite State history covered in two recently opened exhibits at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord. The exhibits offer a glimpse of the defining moments of New Hampshire's past with photographs, documents, artifacts and artwork.

Discovering New Hampshire

Director of collections and exhibitions Wes Balla said the first new exhibit, *Discovering New Hampshire*, is three years in the making and serves as a replacement for the *New Hampshire Through Many Eyes* exhibit, which closed last year when the Historical Society closed its supplementary location in Eagle Square.

"The goal [of both exhibits] was to create an overview with a very broad history exhibit for New Hampshire using iconic objects from our collection and telling stories about New Hampshire," Balla said.

Discovering New Hampshire is structured around five themes, each touching on a different aspect of New Hampshire history.

"A Place Called New Hampshire" explores how New Hampshire's emblematic people, places and events, such as the Old Man of the Mountain, have shaped its state identity.

The second theme, "Ties That Bind," focuses on the connections between community, family, industry, ethnicity and religion throughout New Hampshire's history. Everyday items dating from hundreds of years ago through modern times show not only how society has changed, but also how it maintains its ties to the past.

New Hampshire's political heritage is studied in "All Politics is Local," which covers the history of local politics, such as town meetings, as well as New Hampshire's role in national politics like the presidential primary. The state's



An 1816 Carrigain map and 500-year-old Abenaki dug-out canoe, part of the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibit. Courtesy photo.

most influential presidential primary, in 1952, which resulted in Dwight D. Eisenhower's upset victory over Robert A. Taft, will be highlighted in the exhibit.

"Citizen Soldiers" recounts the personal stories of Granite Staters who served in the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II, and shows how war has affected New Hampshire families throughout history. Weapons, uniforms and other war paraphernalia will be on display.

The final theme, "Second Nature," examines the history of New Hampshire's landscape. From a 500-year-old Abenaki dugout canoe to a 1972 Ski-Doo snowmobile, artifacts on display show how the land sustained the native people, yielded a thriving tourist and recreation industry, inspired writers and artists and fostered interest in forest and land conservation.

Remembrance and Reality

The other new exhibit, *Remembrance and Reality*, contains 17 19th-century paintings of New Hampshire landscapes.

While some of the artists were state residents, most were nonres-

idents who sought out the Granite State for its natural beauty.

"New Hampshire has become a mecca for artists, especially the White Mountains," said Elizabeth Dubrulle, director of education and public programs. "In the 19th century, people came from all over the world to paint our state's scenery."

Painted scenes include Harmon Farm in Madison, Portsmouth harbor and the Presidential Range of the White Mountains as seen from the Waumbeck Hotel in Jefferson.

One of the better-known works in the collection, Dubrulle said, is Thomas Hills' "Crawford Notch." It's of the aftermath of an 1826 landslide, including the Willey family home in the notch, which was untouched amidst the destruction. The family was found dead beneath the rubble, seemingly on their way to their emergency shelter.

The Museum educators share this story and other interesting tidbits about the paintings on guided tours.

A new feature to be implemented in 2016 will also allow visitors to learn more about the exhibits.

"People will be able to scan the QR codes on the labels and access all sorts of additional information

about the item and related items [on display]," Dubrulle said. "There will also be iPads located around the gallery that will allow essentially the same thing."

The feature will be included in the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibit and other select displays.

Special programs and activities related to the new exhibits are in the planning for next year as well.

"It's important to have an understanding of where we came from and know about the people and ideas that went into making our state," Dubrulle said. "It helps us look outside ourselves and our narrow everyday lives to a broader view of who we are collectively and where we are going." 🍌

NH Historical Society's new exhibits

Where: New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St., Concord

When: Exhibits are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. See website for information on guided tours.

Cost: Admission costs \$7 per person, or free for active-duty military, full-time students and persons age 17 and under.

Visit: nhhistory.org

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

Drop N' Shop

Parents can get some shopping done while the kids have fun at the **Holiday Drop N' Shop** at Kimball Library (5 Academy Ave., Atkinson). On Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., kids can try their hand at silly "reindeer games" like unwrapping a gift while wearing mittens. Then, they'll make candy cane snowmen and enjoy them with hot chocolate while listening to holiday stories. This event is open to kids in grades K through 5. Registration is required. Visit kimballlibrary.com.

Ta-da!

Join Cowabunga's Indoor Inflatable Playground (1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett) on Friday, Dec. 18, for a **magic show** featuring wonder magician David Anderson. Shows begin at 6 and 7 p.m. and are free with Cowabunga's admission, which is \$10 for kids and free for adults and babies. Visit mycowabungas.com or call 625-8008.

Cool Kris Kringle

There's still one more weekend to attend **Santa's Big Party** at Charmingfare Farm (774 High St., Candia). Check-in times are on Saturday, Dec. 19, and Sunday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The party is held at a secret location, accessible only by a 30-minute horse-drawn ride through the Christmas trail. At the party, there will be sugar cookies and hot cocoa, a bonfire, music and performers. Santa himself will be DJing and mingling with guests alongside other costumed characters. When families are ready to leave, they can hop aboard the Tractor Train Ride to see Santa's reindeer. Admission costs \$19 per person and is free for children under 23 months old. Visit visitthefarm.com.

Don't miss Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Londonderry Access Center (281 Mammoth Road) on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. Kids can visit with **Santa Live on TV**. Parents are welcome to take pictures,



Santa's Big Party at Charmingfare Farm. Courtesy photo.

and there will be gifts and refreshments as well. This is a free event. Call 432-1147 for more info.

Jolly gingerbread

Team up for the **parent/child Gingerbread House Decorating** workshop at The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Suite 105, Derry) on Sunday, Dec. 20, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The houses are pre-built. Kids and their parents will work together to design and embellish a unique house using a variety of colorful candies. Enjoy holiday music, hot cocoa and cookies while you work. The cost is \$45 per house. Visit culinary-playground.com.

Crafty holidays

Stop by the Bedford Town Hall (3 Meetinghouse Road) on Friday, Dec. 18, at 1 or 3 p.m., for the **Little Elves Kids' Craft Corner**. Kids ages 5 and up are invited for an afternoon of fun with treats to enjoy and some holiday crafting. The cost is \$10. Visit bedfordreconline.com.

Kids of all ages are invited to visit "Santa's Wonderland" at Bass Pro Shops (2 Commerce Drive, Hooksett) between 5 and 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, or between noon and 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19, and Sunday, Dec. 20, for a free **pine cone ornament craft**. Santa's Wonderland, which also includes giveaways, Santa visits and other crafts and activities throughout the week, will be open through Dec. 24. Visit facebook.com/BassProShopsHooksettNH for the full schedule.

Children & Teens
Children events
• **"RENEWING ENERGIES: FAIRY TALES, HEROES AND THE WISDOM OF STORIES"** Brings to life some of the world's tales with help from puppets, costumes and folk art artifacts. On view June 1 through Dec. 31. Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Visit mariposamuseum.org, call 924-4555.
• **COCOA & CHRISTMAS**

CRAFTS Kids of all ages are invited to spend time at the studio and use the art supplies to make fun holiday creations and even some gifts for family and friends. Plus, there will be plenty of hot cocoa and marshmallows to go around. Kids age 8 and older can be dropped off, but a caretaker must remain at the studio with younger kids. Thurs., Dec. 17, 4 to 6 p.m. Refrigerator Door, 7 Chestnut Drive, Bedford. \$20. Visit refrigeratordoor.org.

• DOLLAR DEAL NIGHT The entire museum is open for special evening hours and visitors pay just \$1 per person admission. Gives families a fun opportunity for creative play before bedtime. First Fri. of the month, during the school year months, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. \$1. Call 742-2002 or visit childrens-museum.org.

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The art of making wreaths

Add some greenery to your door

By Henry Homeyer

listings@hippopress.com

For several years now I've been too busy (or too lazy) to create my own wreath, but this year I was inspired to make one. I saw some simply amazing wreaths made by Gary Hamel and Amy Franklin of Riverview Farm in Plainfield and called Gary to see if I could come and watch them work. Later I made my own — and you can, too.

On a flyer for wreath workshops at Riverview Farm, Gary wrote that a wreath is "the symbol of unending years. The evergreen boughs represent the continuing presence of life in winter's deep sleep. The dried flowers are the memory of the season past, and the grasses and seeds are the presence of the year to come." I like that.

The Franklins at Riverview Farm grow and collect materials for their wreaths all year. Prime ingredients are dried Thai peppers, which grow several to a stem. They hang them in the barn to dry and get ready for wreath season. Also used are dried miniature ears of corn, stems of rye and decorative grasses, shallots, rose hips, dried flowers, cones, nuts and dried leaves.

Gary explained that the four herbs of the advent season are rosemary, sage, lavender and thyme, so he likes to use them in wreaths, too. Fragrant herbs like those four and others such as Sweet Annie smell great when making the wreaths but probably aren't noticeable to most people once they are on the front door.

Making a wreath is not hard. First I went to my local Christmas tree farm and got a "reject," a balsam fir tree that would not normally be saleable. I wasn't sure how many branches I would need, so I lugged the whole tree home. I only needed about five branches.

Balsam fir is probably the best tree for making wreaths, though Gary and Amy also mix in some cedar or pine in some of their wreaths. Spruce is also suitable but a bit prickly to work with. Canadian hemlock is not suitable, as the needles fall off too soon, even if kept cold.

I wanted some bright color for my wreath, so I put on my barn boots and headed off to a local swamp where I had seen the bright red berries of winterberry, our native deciduous holly (*Ilex verticillata*). Winterberry usually grows in standing water, and most years I get my feet wet, boots or not.

This year I got smarter: I brought my pole pruner. The one I use has a pistol grip like a pair of hand pruners, which allows me not only to snip off berry-laden branches, but also to grab the cut branches by squeezing gently on the handle. The one I use is made by ARS and sold by OESCO.



Courtesy photo.

Winterberry tends to drop its berries, but Gary told me how to prevent that: get a can of clear Rust-oleum paint and spray the branches. At the hardware store a helpful clerk suggested that of the various clear products, lacquer would work best as a glue, so that is what I used. When I made my wreath, only a few of the berries fell off.

I collected other dried plants for my wreath including goldenrod stems with galls, teasel (a weed with wonderful prickly seed pods), dried black-eyed Susan and bee balm stems, red-twigged dogwood and 2-inch spheres of blue-black berries of the wild vine carriage berry (*Smilax herbacea*). I sprayed the carriage berries with the lacquer to keep them from falling off, too.

A key to a good wreath is making the stems secure. Buy a spool of green wreath wire from your local garden center or florist, and a wire wreath form. I used a double ring 18 inches in diameter. This year, instead of making bundles and then attaching them, I followed Gary's technique of using one continuous piece of wire for the entire wreath, tying the bundles on as the wreath progressed.

First, I tied the wire securely onto the wreath form. Then I made and attached my greens and decorative elements. At the base of each bundle I made five tight loops of wire around the stems going one way, then another three or four turns going back the other. That made the greens very secure.

Each bundle I made started with five stems of balsam fir. Two were about 10 inches long; the other three were shorter. Then I placed a stem of winterberry in the middle, and added other elements. I alternated the various elements, some in one bundle, then skipping them in the next, repeating in the third. Only the red berries and fir were in each bundle. Each bundle should be about the size and shape of your hand.

It takes about 20 bundles of greens to complete a wreath. The only tricky part is at the very end, to attach the last bundle. I see why people use red ribbons at the top: they look good but also cover up the inevitable gap. I didn't have ribbon, so I used a large brass bell.

Henry is the author of five books. His website is Gardening-Guy.com.

Dear Donna,

I am wondering what the value might be on my family's passed-down Santa. I have it now, and my mom had it, as did hers. It has seen many Christmases in my family. It is 7.5 inches long and is wood and clay, I believe. It is tattered from all the tree hangings and use it has had, but very much still loved and will continue on its journey through my family.

Tammy from New Boston



Dear Tammy,
I have to start off by saying what a great story and Santa. I can feel the love for your Santa just by reading your letter.

Your Santa is from early 1900s, so I can see how it's had such a long life within your family. It could be, and most likely is, German, based on the composition of the face, hands and feet. Santas have always been very collectible. Antique ones such as figurines, doorstops, candy containers, etc., are very desirable to antique Christmas collectors. Condition is important, though, so tattered, as you say, would count when giving it a realistic value. Sentimentally it's

priceless, I know! Judging by the photos I would say your Santa is in the \$100+ range today.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668). 🍎

Storytimes

HOLIDAY STORYTIME

Children's librarians will present their favorite stories and songs from both the Christmas and Hanukkah traditions. There will be a simple craft following the story. This event is for kids ages 3 and up. Thurs., Dec. 17, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. Visit amherstlibrary.org.

HOW TO CATCH SANTA

Storytime featuring the book How to Catch Santa at the Barnes & Noble stores in Nashua (235 Daniel Webster Hwy) and Newington (45 Gosling Road). Sat., Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. Nashua, NH Newington, NH Newington., Visit barnesandnoble.com.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SQUIRRELS Join Barnes & Noble at its Newington location (45 Gosling Road) for a storytime featuring the book *Merry Christmas Squirrels* by Nancy Rose. Tues., Dec. 22, and Wed., Dec. 23, at 11 a.m. Newington, NH Newington., Visit barnesandnoble.com.

Crafts

Fairs

• DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET Presented by InTown Manchester. Homemade local goods. Thurs., Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. Visit intownmanchester.com.

• CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOP

Gourmet goodies, more than 60 member artisans selling work. Through Tues., Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Kendall House, 5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Craftworkersguild.org.

One-time pottery & clay workshops

• TRY IT! CLAY WORKSHOP One-day workshop lets you try a class before signing up for a full 10-week program. Register by calling the studio. every Sat. from 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Studio 550 Art Center, 550 Elm St., Manchester. \$45.00. Visit www.550arts.com. Call 232-5597.

Regular basket-making workshops

• BASKET WEAVING Ongoing classes with Ruth Bolan. Beginner to advanced students welcome. Students choose from a number of projects. Call or email to register. Thurs. from 6:15-9:15 p.m. or Fri. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. League of NH Craftsmen Nashua Fine Craft Gallery, 98 Main St., Nashua. Monthly sessions are \$60, individual classes are \$20. Call 595-8233. Visit nhcrafts.org.

Regular beading workshops

• BEAD PLAYDATE Stop by for help with a project, inspiration to start something new, or just a social setting to do your beading. See website for

all beading classes and events. every Thurs. from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Bead Bush Studio, 43 Mt. Delight Road, Deerfield. Free. Call 463-7683. Visit beadbush.com.

Regular glass workshops

• STAINED GLASS CLASSES With Mark and Kathy Frank from League of NH Craftsmen Nashua Fine Craft Gallery. Beginner class explores basic techniques in copper foil method. Intermediate course allows you to perfect skills and learn new techniques to complete projects with higher level of difficulty. Classes are adults only. Classes are held for five consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or a five week Thursday session from 6:30-9 p.m. Renaissance Glassworks, 99 Factory St., Nashua. Beginner Class: Tuition is \$250 (includes tools), \$175 if you bring your own; Call 595-8233. Visit nhcrafts.org.

Regular jewelry-making workshops

• JEWELRY WORKSHOPS Various jewelry workshops and classes. Registration required. Call for scheduling. Sussy-Rose Shields Jewelry Studio, River-view Mill, 33 Howard St., Wilton. Enrollment and materials fees can vary. Call 654-5310. Email nashuarg@nhcrafts.org. Visit sussyroseshields.com.

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Organists: Kenneth Grinnell & Carter Beck

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Children's Service, 4:00 pm (Bring a Bell!)

Christmas Hymns & Choral Anthems, 7:30 pm

Festival Choral Service with Eucharist, 8:00 pm

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro,

Preacher & Celebrant

Silent Night: A Quiet Christmas Eve Service,

11:00pm

The Rev. Allan Knight, Preacher & Celebrant

(With Incense and Sung Eucharist)

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.



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CHRISTMAS PARTY AT MILLY'S

Milly's Tavern (500 Commercial St., Manchester) is holding its 22nd Annual Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. There will be a silent auction, live entertainment and a buffet, with proceeds funding Milly's Tavern's Christmas breakfast for New Horizons for New Hampshire, Manchester's local homeless shelter which offers housing and food services to people and families in need.

Donations, clothing and non-perishable food items will also be accepted at the party. Visit facebook.com/MillysTavernNH.

Spinning workshops

- **SOUTHERN NH WOOL SPINNERS** Beginners always welcome. Meets first and third Wed. of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Free. Call 673-2408 or email eeskipper@comcast.net.

Dance

Belly dance classes

- **MAIA SOLANA'S DANCE STUDIO** Belly dance classes for women of all ages, beginner to advanced. Hula classes also offered. See website for schedule. Salem, NH Salem., Contact 661-3083 or hulabellydancer@hotmail.com for details.

Other dance events

- **FREESTYLE FRIDAY: ECSTATIC DANCE** A barefoot boogie for all ages and sizes. Explore music, movement and community. No experience required. Fri., Dec. 4, 18, Jan. 1, and 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m. West Street Ward House, 41 West St., Concord. \$5 to \$10. Contact nicolegrubman@hotmail.com.

Ballroom dances

- **SUNDAY NIGHT BALLROOM DANCE PARTY** Singles and couples welcome to dance to recorded ballroom, Latin and swing music. Beginners welcome. Potluck items allowed. Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m. Londonderry Lion's Club Hall, 176 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information call 622-1500 or email karen@queencity-ballroomnh.com.

Folk dances

- **NEW ENGLAND CONTRA DANCE** Enjoy old and new contra dances. No partner necessary. All dances taught, with a welcoming review at 7:30 pm. Dance to the English, Scottish, Irish and other New England traditions, in a friendly and welcoming gathering. Wear comfortable, clean-soled shoes. Second Fri., of the month, 8 to 11 p.m. Londonderry Senior

Center, 535 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. \$8 adult/\$3 12 and under. Call 529-1586.

Health & Wellness Events

- **EXPLORE THE NH HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAM** Presentations are offered in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bosnian, Nepali, and Portuguese. Contact the health center for the dates and times of the presentation using your primary language. Manchester Community Health Center, 145 Hollis St., Manchester. Contact hjordan@mchc-nh.org. Call 935-5294 or visit mchc-nh.org.
- **WOMEN'S HEALTH SERIES** Informal discussions on current health trends topics include mindfulness, heart care, and food as medicine. Third Wed. of the month. O Steaks & Seafood, 11 South Main St., Concord. Classes \$10, \$30 for entire series. Call 230-7300 to register.

First aid

- **FIRST AID & SAFETY CLASSES** Red Cross NH Regional Office serving the Concord, Lakes and Hanover region. Classes are in general first aid, emergency response and becoming a Red Cross instructor or LNA. Other offices in Keene, Manchester, Nashua, and Portsmouth. Red Cross NH Regional Office, 2 Maitland St., Concord. Call 225-6697 or visit redcross.org/nh/concord to take a class.

Support groups

- **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** Program of recovery for those with addiction to share their experience, strength, and hope. Meetings are held daily throughout southern NH. See gsana.org.
- **RECOVERY INTERNATIONAL** Weekly meetings offer support for those struggling with stress, anxiety, panic, mood disorders, fatigue, insomnia, anger, fear and hopelessness. In Manchester, Mon., 7 to

9 p.m.; In Londonderry, Thur., 7 to 9 p.m. Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, In Cypress Center, 401 Cypress St., Manchester. Robie House, 183c Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Manchester: Call 624-0086. Londonderry: 785-2413.

- **ALZHEIMER'S CAFE** For dementia patients still residing in their own homes and their caregivers, the cafe is an informal opportunity to socialize and relax with new friends who share similar circumstances. First Fri., 10:30 a.m. to noon. Durham Public Library, 49 Madbury Road, Durham. Free. Call 868-6699.
- **GENERAL INFERTILITY PEER SUPPORT GROUP** Peer-led support group open to women and men, individuals and couples, in any stage of parenthood. Second Tues., 6 to 7:30 p.m. Presidential Oaks, 200 Pleasant St., Concord. Please pre-register and confirm dates at resolvenewengland.org/support.
- **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** NH Area Assembly Office has hundreds of AA meetings in New Hampshire. NH Area Assembly Office, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett. Contact 622-6967. Visit nhaa.net. See 'find a meeting' tab to locate open and closed meetings in your area. The site lists daily and weekly meetings.

Blood drives

- **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES** Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org/donating-blood for dates, times and locations and to schedule an appointment.

Screenings

- **BLOOD PRESSURE AND NURSE CONSULTS** Offered through Parish Nurse Program, which provides access to registered nurses for health and wellness consultations at local churches. Parish of the Transfiguration, 107 Alsace St., Manchester. See catholicmedicalcenter.org.

A stroll through the ages

Strawbery Banke recreates holidays of the past



Hundreds of lights illuminate the walkways at the Candlelight Stroll. Courtesy photo.

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Celebrate the holidays in four different centuries at the 36th Annual Candlelight Stroll on Saturday, Dec. 19, and Sunday, Dec. 20, at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth.

At the stroll, Puddle Dock, the state's oldest waterfront neighborhood, is brought to life by costumed role-players, traditional craft demonstrations, recreations of historic scenes and more.

This year's theme, "Winter Pastimes," explores how Puddle Dock residents entertained themselves during the colder months. "[It shows] how people in all different time periods spent their leisure time when it was too cold or dark to go out," Alena Shellenbean, event manager, said. "They would [stay] indoors and enjoy stories and games, jokes and songs and just each others' company."

Strollers will find the museum illuminated by hundreds of candle boxes and filled with the sound of wandering musicians. The historic houses are adorned with old-fashioned decorations handmade from florals, greens and herbs grown in the museum's gardens.

Take a free horse-drawn carriage ride around the candlelit streets as costumed role-players roam the walkways.

Some scenes you may encounter inside the buildings include the Goodwin children playing games in their Victorian parlor in 1870; the Shapiros, a Russian Jewish family, preparing a Hanukkah celebration in 1919; and the Abbott family playing board games and listening to the radio in 1943 as they await news of their soldier fighting in WWII.

Young strollers will enjoy the Candlelight Kids' Treasure Hunt. Pick up a treasure map and list of questions at the visitors center, then follow the map to Puddle Dock townsfolk who can provide the answers. Complete the hunt and receive a prize.

See a variety of traditional craft demonstrations like hearth-cooking, barrel-making, woodworking, tinsmithing, weaving, wreath-making and more. There will also be hands-on

crafts for visitors to make, such as a botanical card or a colonial toy.

New to the stroll this year are author readings. On Saturday, Dennis Robinson will read from *Strawbery Banke: A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making*, and *Wentworth-By-The-Sea: The Life and Times of a Grand Hotel*, and Kevin Martin will showcase *Big Trees of New Hampshire*. On Sunday, children's author Wickie Rowland will read *Good Morning, Strawberry Banke*, and children's author Sue Thoresen with illustrator Keith Eveland will present *The Yoyo & the Piggy Bank*.

Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond returns for its second year at the stroll, hosting open skating (\$10 for adults, \$8 for children, skate rentals available) as well as ice dancing performances (6 and 7 p.m., both days).

Other performances include the Pontine Theatre's presentation of "The Christmas Monks" story (every 45-minutes, both days), holiday carols by local music groups (continuous on Saturday, 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday) and ongoing live piano in the visitors center.

There will be refreshments, hot apple cider and live music in the Cider Shed (folk band on Saturday, swing band on Sunday), or you can stop at the museum's cafe Figtree Kitchen for coffee, dessert, homemade soup and other light snacks.

36th Annual Candlelight Stroll

Where: Strawberry Banke, 14 Hancock St., Portsmouth

When: Saturday, Dec. 19, 5 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 20, 4 to 8 p.m.

Cost: Tickets \$25 for adults, \$12.50 for ages 5 to 17, free for kids under 5, \$60 for a family of two adults and two youth.

Parking: Parking at the museum is handicapped parking only. Others should utilize public parking areas, then take the Vintage Christmas Trolley. The trolley runs in a 20-minute loop and stops at parking lots, hotels and other sites around town, including Strawberry Banke.

Visit: strawberybanke.org

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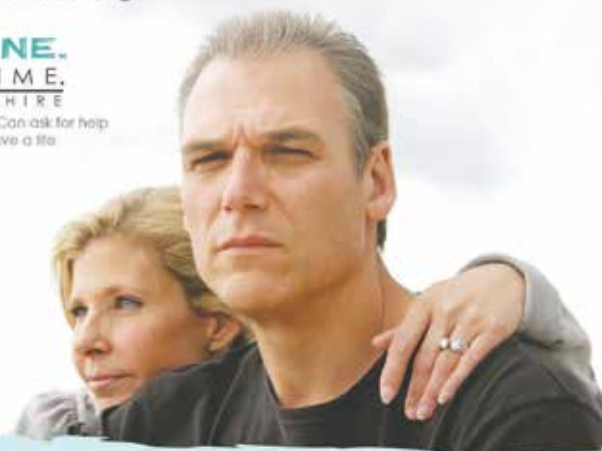
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What is making his car go “bump”?



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
I have a 2000 Nissan Maxima, and when I go over a speed bump it makes a “thump” sound when it lands back on the road. The sound comes from the rear, as if something heavy is loose in the back and that makes the sound when it lands after the vehicle comes down from a bump. I have checked the trunk, and everything in the trunk is strapped down. I have taken the car to a few shops, but they have not been able to identify the problem. Can you help me identify the issue and suggest what I can tell a shop to look for? — Vinnie

Well, it sounds like you’ve already checked for bowling balls and mothers-in-law rolling around in the trunk, so I’m all out of ideas, Vinnie.

Actually, this is a hard problem to solve without having the car in front of me. But based on your description, my first guess would be that your exhaust system is banging against the underside

of the car.

Since your car’s been around for more than a decade, I’m guessing that at some point, you replaced the exhaust system. And if you got an aftermarket exhaust, it might not fit as precisely as the original did.

That doesn’t mean it’s not doing its job; it’s just that exhaust systems are supposed to bend and curve and rise and fall to fit the exact contours of the underside of each car. And if one of the bends isn’t exactly right, that can bring the pipes too close to the bottom of the car, and allow it to bang against the undercarriage when the suspension fully extends or compresses — which is what happens when you go over a speed bump.

Another possibility is that one of the exhaust hangers — the hanging, rubber doughnuts that hold the entire exhaust system in place — has fallen off. That sometimes happens. And that can allow any portion of the exhaust pipe to clank against the bottom of the car, too.

There are other things it could be: A worn-out or broken McPherson strut mount comes to mind first. But it also could be something like a loose sway bar or a bad sway bar mount. Those things

tend to make rattling noises more frequently, on bumps of all sizes, not just speed bumps. But I wouldn’t rule them out.

So next time you take your car in for an oil change, ask the mechanic to look at your rear suspension. Maybe he’ll see something obvious that’s worn out. And have him look at your exhaust system, too. He may see evidence that a pipe’s been hitting the underside of the car somewhere. Sometimes you can see where it’s been scraping.

But if there’s not an obvious fix, like a missing hanger, at least consider leaving it alone. Every time we try to adjust a poorly fitting exhaust system for a customer, we always seem to make it worse. So you’ve been warned, Vinnie. Good luck.

Dear Car Talk:

I was wondering if there is a way for gas stations to add water to their tanks to make the gas stretch farther. I heard differing points of view about this when I posted this question on a popular social-media Q-and-A forum. Some say gas and water don’t mix, so it would be impossible; others say it would destroy the

machinery involved, as it wasn’t made to handle water; others say it’s very possible. What do you say? — Julie

It’s possible. And it’s also impossible, Julie. More to the point, it’s possible for gasoline and water to mix temporarily.

If you shake up a container of water and gasoline, the water will be briefly suspended in the gasoline, but will quickly separate back out, with the water going to the bottom and the gasoline staying on top.

That’s why this trick is popular right now only with gas stations in Oklahoma, where they have about 5,000 earthquakes a month, thanks to fracking. That keeps those underground storage tanks shaken up nicely.

So the overall answer is no, it does not make sense for gas stations to do this, Julie. The water would sink to the bottom of their storage tanks, taking up space, and reducing the amount of gasoline they could store and sell.

And since the water would separate out, some customers would get only water, which would leave the gas station with a lot of ‘splainin’ to do.

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The Humane Society for Greater Nashua (24 Ferry Road, Nashua) will hold a Memory Tree Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 20, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., inside the lobby. This special ceremony will give people an opportunity to remember and honor their pets who have passed, but still hold a place in their hearts. For a \$20 donation, receive an ornament to place on the lobby tree or take home, and have your pet's name, birth date, and date of passing read during the ceremony. Visit hsfn.org to register.

- **HEARING SCREENING** Call to register. In partnership with Avada Audiology and Hearing Care. Available monthly. Roger Dionne, MD, Senior Center, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Contact 595-3722. Visit stjosephhospital.com.
- **PODIATRY CLINIC** With physicians from Nashua Podiatry Associates. Call to schedule appointment. Available monthly. Roger Dionne, MD, Senior Center, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Contact 595-3722. Visit stjosephhospital.com.

Wellness workshops & seminars

- **OPEN MEDITATION SESSIONS** Open meditation sessions, followed by time for discussion. Tues., and Thurs., 9 to 10 a.m., and Mon., 7 to 8 a.m. and 8:30 to 10 a.m. Aryaloka Buddhist Center, 14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket. Free. Call 659-5456.
- **WOMEN'S HEALTH SERIES** Informal discussions on current health trends topics include mindfulness, heart care, and food as medicine. Third Wed. of the month. O Steaks & Seafood, 11 South Main St., Concord. Classes \$10, \$30 for entire series. Call 230-7300 to register.

Misc Festivals & Fairs

- **WARNER FESTIVAL OF TREES** Nov. 30 to Dec. 25. Warner Town Hall, 5 E. Main St., Warner. Visit townofwarner.com.
- **Card, board & dice games for adults**
- **MAH JONGG** Beginners to established players welcome. every Tues. and Thurs. from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road, Rye. Call 964-8401. Visit ryepubliclibrary.org.
- **WEEKLY CRIBBAGE LEAGUE** Weekly Cribbage League in Merrimack. Alcohol and smoking is not permitted. Also looking for substitutes. Wednesday nights. Starts between 5:15 and 5:45 p.m. League runs through April.

VFW, 282 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack. Cost \$5/week with weekly payouts for top teams. For more info, contact Scott at 429-9521 or mortimer@gmail.com.

- **GAMING DAY** Join Play Date NH as they teach an assortment of new board games, card games and role playing games. Second Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. Call 886-6030.

Holiday events

- **HOLIDAY TRAIN RIDES** Climb aboard Santa's Holiday Express on the Conway Scenic Railroad where you'll get to ride with Santa and his elves and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Rides are offered Dec. 19 to 23. Tickets range from \$16.50 to \$25 for adults, \$11.50 to \$21 for kids 4 to 12 and \$0 to \$12 for kids under 4. You can also catch a ride on the Journey to the North Pole, running Dec. 18 to 22. Passengers will enjoy hot chocolate as they ride to Santa's headquarters, where they will be greeted by Santa and his elves. On the return trip, there will be a Christmas sing-along. Tickets range from \$47 to \$67. 38 Norcross Circle, North Conway. For more information about both of these train rides, visit conway-scenic.com.

- **HOB0 SANTA EXPRESS** Don't miss out on the Ho-Ho-Hobo Santa Express holiday train rides at the Hobo Railroad. Once seated, each passenger will receive a cup of hot chocolate, and each family will receive a box of holiday cookies to enjoy on the one-hour twenty-minute-tour. Santa and his elves will visit with each child on the train and hand out gifts. Be sure to bring a camera for photos with Santa on the station platform after the ride. Every weekend through Sunday, Dec. 20. 64 Railroad St., Lincoln. Tickets cost \$20 per seat in coach class and \$25 per seat in first class which is seating at a table. Children ages 2 and under are free. Visit hoborr.com.

Pet events

- **PET ADOPTION DAY** Shelters from across New England bring pets available for adoption. fourth Sat. of every month at 11 a.m. First Congregational Church, 3 Main St., Pelham. Visit aranne.org. Call 233-4801.

Religion-related events

- **LIVING NATIVITY** A caroling and handbell ring accompanied by organ and piano. Then, a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story beginning on the steps of the church and journeying to see the Holy Family surrounded by angels, shepherds and sheep, Wise Men and of course the humble donkey. Gather in the Fellowship Hall afterwards for hot chocolate and refreshments. Wed., Dec. 23, 6 p.m. Bedford Presbyterian Church, 4 Church Road, Bedford. Call the church office at 472-5841 or visit bedfordpresbyterian.org.
- **CHRISTMAS SERVICES** Christmas celebrations featuring traditional carols and contemporary songs. Wed., Dec. 23, 7 p.m., and Thurs., Dec. 24, 3, 5 and 7 p.m., at Pond Campus, 503 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua; Thurs., Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., at the Milford Campus, 56 Mont Vernon Road, Milford, Nashua, NH Milford, NH Milford, Visit crosswaycc.org.
- **TUESDAY NIGHT FRIENDS** Gather to meditate and explore aspects of Buddhism through workshops, talks, study, ritual, or discussion. The emphasis is on practical application of Buddhist principles in our own lives. Tues., 6:45 to 9 p.m. Aryaloka Buddhist Center, 14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket. Free, donations accepted. Visit aryaloka.org.
- **ECKANKAR WORSHIP SERVICE** Religious service. Second Sun., 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. Free. Call 713-8944.
- **COMMUNITY HU CHANT** A spiritual exercise and quiet contemplation. Dover Location: Second Sun. of the month at 10 a.m.; Exeter Location: Fourth

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Visit rogerslibrary.org. Photo by: Stefano Buttafo-co / Shutterstock.com

Wed. of the month at 7 p.m.; Keene Location: Second Thurs. of the month at 7 p.m.; Manchester Location: Third Thurs. of the month at 7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Comfort Inn, 10 Hotel Drive, Dover. Exeter Public Library, 4 Chestnut St., Exeter. Free. Call 800-713-8944. Visit eckankar-nh.org.

Fundraisers

• **CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**
The Rotary Club of Merrimack will hold its annual Christmas Tree Sale with over 350 fresh Fraser and Canadian Balsam fir trees from Nova Scotia. Beginning Thurs., Dec. 3, and continuing every day until trees are sold out. Weekdays 4 to 8 p.m., Sat., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Shaw's parking lot, Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack. Visit merrimackrotary.org.

Sports & Recreation Biking clubs & rides

• **COMMUNITY BICYCLE RIDES** Each week, cyclists will meet, enjoy live music, then ride all over downtown. All skill levels and bike styles are welcome. Fri., music from 6 to 7:30 p.m., ride at 7:30 p.m. A&E Coffee & Tea, Brady Sullivan Plaza, Manchester. Free. Call 578-3338.
• **NEW ENGLAND MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION** Holds group rides and focuses on trail building and maintaining land throughout Southern NH. See facebook.com/Ride-TheTrails for weekly group rides and activities. See nemba.org/chapters/snhnemba.
• **NH CYCLING CLUB** Central NH based cycling club for people interested in competing in cycling races. Annual events include NH Motor Speedway Thursday Night Training Series, White Park Cyclocross, and the Kearsarge Classic. Membership costs \$25. See nhcyclingclub.com.

Horseback riding classes

• **BLACKWATER TRAIL RIDERS** Equestrian trail club for riders has low-key group rides that offer a chance to enjoy horses, the outdoors, and

each other's company. Meeting times vary; usually take place in a member's home with a potluck supper and lots of "horse talk." Most rides in Lakes Region, sometimes in Vermont, Mass., or Maine. No ride fees. Membership costs \$10/year. Email Hannah (hmhrider@mac.com) See facebook.com/pages/Blackwater-Trail-Riders/

Ice Skating

• **ICE SKATING LESSONS**
Hosted by Concord Parks and Rec for ages 4 to adult, basic beginner to intermediate levels offered. Session 2 Jan. 3 to Feb. 7. Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road, Concord. Cost is \$79 for residents for 6 week session. Offers Muay Thai, self defense, boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing for adults and children. Kid's program includes martial arts and mixed martial arts classes. 3 N. Main St., Concord. See online application page to register. Call 223-0300. Visit averillsmartialarts.com.

Runs/walks/races

• **JINGLE BELL 5K RUN/WALK FOR ARTHRITIS** Sat., Dec. 19, 10 a.m. Rundlett Middle School, 144 South St., Concord. Pre-registration costs \$30 (\$15 for children 9 and under) or \$35 on race day (\$20 for children). Register at jbr.org. Contact Tom Bringle, 224-9322, tbringle@arthritis.org.

Team/competition sports

• **FOOSBALL TOURNAMENT** Tues. & Fri., 7:30 p.m. Boston Billiard Club, 55 North-eastern Blvd., Nashua. Call 321-5996.
• **CONCORD FENCING CLUB** Offers individual and group lessons for for beginner to experienced fencers, children to adult. Sabre and Epee clinics also offered. See concordfencingclub@hotmail.com, 224-3560, concordfencingclub.org. 126D Hall St., Concord.
• **MANCHESTER BALLERS' ASSOCIATION** Offers Manchester-area basketball players a chance to play in a league that's competitive, fun, and affordable. Plays are mostly men highschool

age to 50 years old. Individual and team entries are welcome. Association also holds regular fundraisers. Boy & Girls Club of Manchester, 555 Union St., Manchester. See manchesterballersassociation.com, 486-3946, coachdoucet@hotmail.com.
• **NASHUA SWIM & TENNIS CLUB** Eight outdoor lighted clay courts, 8 indoor hard courts (open year round), and an outdoor junior olympic size pool (summer seasonal). Multiple membership options available. Tennis and swim lessons offered. See 883-0153, nashuaswimandtennis.com. 140 Lock St., Nashua.

Volunteer Events

• **USED IPODS FOR HOSPICE PROGRAM** Collecting used iPods for use with patients who could benefit from music. HHHC's Seasons Program is designed to assist persons at the end of their lives and particularly those who have Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia. Music can be a powerful tool in providing relief from pain, discomfort, and anxiety when a person is in the final stages of life. Accepting now through the end of the year. Home Health & Hospice Care, 7 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack. Please deliver to HHHC's administrative office. Visit hhhc.org.
• **VOLUNTEERS FOR RESEARCH STUDY** Seeking African American woman with HIV age 25 or older to participate in a 35 minute research study. You must be HIV positive and willing to talk about your experiences. You will receive \$35 compensation. Please contact Bobby at 978-747-6624.
• **KEEP CONCORD WARM** Help Concord Public Library share the warmth this winter. Donate new or newly-handmade hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks at the library. No coats, please. All items will be given to the Concord Homeless Resource Center. Accepting Dec. 1 through 15. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord. Call 230-3682.

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| Adult (18-64) \$90 | Adult (18-64) \$41 |
| Junior (6-17) \$50 | Junior (6-17) \$41 |
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| | |
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| Tubing Only (All Ages) | PARTY ONLY** |
| \$20 | Adult (18-64) \$70 |
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Prices do not include rental equipment.

*Party & Skiing ticket includes tubing
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**Children 5 & under are free.

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MONTE CARLO
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6PM-8PM

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8PM-11PM

THE MCMURPHY'S
8PM-12AM

COMEDY SHOW
8PM-10PM

PARTY FAVORS
10PM

CHAMPAGNE TOAST
11:45PM

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12AM

104646

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101583

JOBS/CAREERS

Bringing job seekers and companies together

Looking for work? Trying to hire people? Use Hippo's Jobs/Careers section.

► TWO WAYS TO USE HIPPO'S JOBS/CAREERS PAGES:

1. SEND IN A JOB LISTING

Hippo's weekly job listings are a great way to get info about your opening in front of our audience of 205,000 people in southern N.H. They're text-only, maximum 35 words—and best of all, they're **FREE**. :) See this week's Job Listings page for details on how to submit your info for publication.



2. RUN A KICK-ASS DISPLAY AD

Having a job fair or open house? Not getting quality candidates from look-alike online job postings? Display ads can drive attendance at recruiting events, and grab the attention of great people—even those who aren't actively looking, but would consider a good opportunity if they come across it.

For more about how to use Hippo to recruit great employees in New Hampshire, call Jeff Rapsis at (603) 236-9237.

ON THE JOB

TARA SCULLIN ABA THERAPIST

Tara Scullin works at Crotched Mountain Foundation's Ready, Set, Connect! program in Concord, which provides Applied Behavior Analysis treatment for children ages 18 months to 14 with autism. The facility includes an indoor playground and activity stations with books and toys to help children learn new skills in a fun environment. The program recently opened an additional location in Manchester.

Q: Explain in one sentence what your current job is.

I use ABA, which is Applied Behavior Analysis, to work with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, to help them reach their highest potential behaviorally, socially and academically in multiple settings such as the clinic, home and community.

How long have you worked there?

I've been here since October of 2012, so three years.

Five favorites

Favorite book: *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein

Favorite movie: *Into the Wild*

Favorite type of music or musician: The Shins

Favorite food: Pizza and sushi. Not together, though!

Favorite thing about NH: I like that I [can go] hiking in the mountains one day, then swimming in the ocean the next, and enjoy all four seasons.

How did you get interested in this field?

I always knew I wanted to teach from a really young age. When I began volunteering with children, I immediately realized how rewarding it felt to help others, especially the youngest members of our community. So I began studying psychology in college and worked as a paraprofessional [in a special needs early-intervention program]. I use that experience and drive. ... I enjoy dedicating my time to [helping children]. I get to smile and laugh all day, and it doesn't feel like work.

What kind of education or training did you need for this job?

I earned a B.A. in psychology... and I'm due to graduate next December with a graduate degree in child and adolescent development psychology. As for training, all ABA therapists receive extensive training by the BCBA, which are Board Certified Behavior Analysts.

How did you find your current job?

I actually wasn't aware of ABA therapy [before taking this job]. A good friend who works here knew I worked as a paraprofessional and thought it'd be a perfect fit for me.



Courtesy photo.

What's the best piece of work-related advice anyone's ever given you?

To always assume confidence, because children know so much more than they can let on.

What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of your career?

When I started, I wouldn't always ask for help or advice when I needed it. Now I feel more comfortable saying to a mentor or staff member, "Can you look at this? Can

you give me feedback?" It's important in this program [for the staff] to trust each other and [ask] each other for help and work together.

What is your typical at-work uniform?

We dress professional — comfy, so it's a combination of clothing that looks nice and professional, but you won't mind getting finger paint on it or jumping on a trampoline in it. It's a very active job.

What was the first job you ever had?

I was a substitute teacher when I was pretty young. My mom worked in the school district, so I started coming in and visiting, and [the school] asked me to sub. I worked with all ages, from elementary to high school, which was fun.

— Angie Sykeny 🍷

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CAREERS, JOBS & GIGS

Deadline is **FRIDAY AT NOON** for the following week's issue. Job ads will be published in Hippo and online at hippopress.com full paper app. Only local job ads placed by local companies will be published for free. Job ads to be published at the discretion of staff. Job ads must be e-mailed to classifieds@hippopress.com to qualify for free promotion.

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Hiring for part-time sales/customer service associates to work anywhere from 10-20 hours per week. The ideal candidate will be friendly, reliable, detail-oriented and knowledgeable when it comes to upscale fashion labels. Call - 603.674.9569 Email: contact@laconsignerieboutique.com

ANIMAL LOVER FOR HIRE

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FT for Manchester Podiatrist
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75% commission. Immediate openings for part/full time positions with opportunity to attend classes and trade shows. 1 yr minimum experience and clipper experience a must. Call (603) 432-4809.

BANQUET SERVERS

The Grappon Conference Center in Concord, NH is seeking Banquet Servers for day, evening, and weekend shifts to serve food in a professional and efficient manner to our patrons attending a banquet function. This is a fast paced and physically demanding position. If interested in this position, please complete application at: 70 Constitution Ave. Concord, NH or please

fax your resume to (603)226-0782. EOE

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The Town of Hooksett is hiring a CDL B driver/laborer. Starting pay is \$14.18. Please check the website for full job description and application at www.hooksett.org

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Immediate need for one part time position growing to full time dependent upon business. Must be able to lift 60lbs, have a valid drivers license, clean driving record, self starter, energetic and have a good work ethic. \$13.00/hr to start. Call Monday - Friday 603-898-0020 ext:106

HANDY MAN NEEDED

Looking for a Retired individual. Have many projects around house. Must have carpentry experience. Work to be paid per each job's completion. Must LOVE animals. No pressure job, do one job a week or 2,3. Email - mowgli457@aol.com or text 978-808-4421

NIGHT OWLS WANTED

Warehouse Associates needed to make holiday dreams come true. SMX at Amazon has immediate hiring and sign on bonuses. Apply at apply.smjobs.com/ amazon or in person at: 10 State St, Nashua, NH 03063 (603)579-9942

CUSTOMER SERVICE/ COLLECTIONS

Looking to hire entry-level customer service rep willing to train. Insurance exp and/or Spanish speaking a plus. Salary and bonus position with benefits. Send resume to webhr@adamsmorse.com.

PART TIME COOK

Assisted living facility in Deerfield, NH. Hours: 5:30a-1:30p and/or

11:00a-7:00p. Includes 2 weekends per month. \$10/ hr training, then \$11/ hr. Competitive Benefits. Email resume to germy@innatdeerfield.org.

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The CCS Companies is hiring entry-level CSA's for their Collections department. Earn an hourly rate plus bonus! We offer a comprehensive benefits package. Requirements: HS diploma/G.E.D., background check/drug test. Email to hr@ccsusa.com

BILINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS!

The CCS Companies is hiring entry-level CSA's for their Collections department. Hourly rate plus bonus! We offer a comprehensive benefits package. HS diploma/G.E.D., background check/drug test - fluent in Spanish/English. Email: tsmith@ccsusa.com.

JOB COACH-CONCORD

Body-Work Opportunities Unlimited is looking for a caring, compassionate person as a Job Coach in the Concord area for people with challenges for employment. Part-time Mon-Fri about 25 hours 9-3 availability. Email resume to careers@workopportunities.net 603-609-7080

• 35 words or less

• Ad will run two weeks

• E-mail your ad listing to

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(Please include a contact name, address, phone number and job title or it will not be published.)

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Immediate opening. Looking for responsible adult for a physically and emotionally challenged middle aged woman. Split shift preferred up to 4 hours a day. Schedule is somewhat flexible. Must have reliable transportation. Must participate in Criminal Record and Background Checks and supply references. Interested parties should contact Maggie at 753-9883 to schedule and initial screening call.

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News from the local food scene

By Allie Ginwala
food@hippopress.com

FOOD

Dine out for the holidays

Where to go on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Enjoy a special dinner or your favorite dish from a local restaurant on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24. Plus, check out a handful of restaurants open on Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25.

Open on Christmas Eve with special dinners

- **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillage-inn.com) will serve a prix fixe dinner from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the dining room and at Corks (Tavern closed for dinner). The menu includes appetizers (chestnut soup, truffled portobello ragout, New England clam chowder), salads, entrees (pan-roasted Scottish salmon, butter-poached Maine lobster, duet of Long Island duck) and a grand dessert buffet and after-dinner cordials served in the Great Hall. Cost is \$79 for adults, \$29 for children 10 and under. Reservations required.

- **Campo Enoteca** (969 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0256, campoenoteca.com) will offer seatings at 5, 5:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. for a Feast of the Seven Fishes. The menu features amuse (salted cod croquette), antipasti platter (baked stuffed mussels, baked stuffed clams Oreganata, baked stuffed Point Judith squid body), primi (grilled fresh U.S.A. shrimp), pasta (albacore tuna Bolognese), secondi (pan-roasted halibut) and dolce (panforte). Cost is \$45 per person. Reservations required.

- **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com) will serve a special Christmas Eve prix fixe dinner menu from 4 to 10 p.m. (last reservation at 8 p.m.) Guests may choose from two-course (\$59), three-course (\$69) and four-course (\$79) options. Call or go online for reservations.

- **Epoch Restaurant & Bar at The Exeter Inn** (90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epoch-restaurant.com) will serve a special menu with multiple appetizer (oyster stew, chestnut soup, Swedish meatballs, tuna tartare), entree (bronzed sea scallops, porcini-dusted filet mignon, Hudson valley duck duo) and dessert (eggnog creme brulee, flourless chocolate cake, warm spicy gingerbread) options from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person, \$80 for dinner and wine pairings. Reservations required.

- **Giorgio's Ristorante & Meze Bar** (524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939, giorgios.com) will serve its Christmas Eve Feast (Milford location only) on Christmas Eve from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$34.99 for adults, \$14.99 for kids under 12. Reservations available.

- **Tuscan Kitchen** (67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com) will serve a traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes from 3 to 8 p.m. The dinner includes seafood mista,



Point Judith squid alla fiorentina, herb-roasted swordfish and chocolate and hazelnut cannelloni. Cost is \$55, \$80 with wine pairings. Call or book reservations online.

Open on Christmas Eve with regular menus

- **900 Degrees** (50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900; Brickyard Square, 24 Calef Highway, Epping, 734-2809, 900degrees.com) will be open until 4 p.m. at both locations.

- **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) will be open until 8 p.m.

- **Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) will be open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmontrestaurant.com) will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Black Forest Cafe** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) will be open until 5 p.m. serving from the regular dining room menu. Marketplace is open on a "first come, first served" basis.

- **The Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern** (176 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 437-2022, coachstopnh.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., serving from a limited menu (about 16 to 18 items).

- **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. serving from the regular menu.

- **Common Man Claremont** (21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171, thecman.com) will serve Christmas Eve dinner from 5 to 8 p.m.

- **Common Man Restaurants** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, 429-3463; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; thecman.com) will serve lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Country Spirit Restaurant & Tavern** (262 Maple St., Henniker, 428-7007, countryspirithenniker.com) will be open regular

hours, serving from the regular menu.

- **Country Tavern** (452 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-5871, countrytavern.org) will be open for lunch and holiday pick-ups until 4 p.m.

- **Cucina Toscana** (427 Amherst St., Nashua, 821-7356, cucinatoscanaashua.com) will be open regular hours, serving from the regular menu. Reservations are recommended.

- **The Derryfield Restaurant** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com) will be open for lunch at 11:30 a.m., closing at 6 p.m., serving from the regular menu plus specials.

- **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) will be open until 4 p.m., serving from its regular menu.

- **Foster's Boiler Room** (231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764, thecman.com) will serve Christmas Eve dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **The Foundry Restaurant** (50 Commercial St., Manchester, 836-1925, foundrynh.com) will serve from its regular menu from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022; 194 Main St., Nashua, 889-2022; fratellos.com) will be open until 8 p.m. at both locations.

- **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will serve its regular menu during regular hours.

- **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9005, graniterestaurant.com) will serve Christmas Eve specials from 5 to 9 p.m.

- **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) will serve from its regular dinner menu, taking reservations from noon to 4 p.m.

- **Hart's Turkey Farm** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) will serve from its regular menu until 2 p.m.

• **A little Italy in Portsmouth:** Founder Joe Faro hosted a groundbreaking celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 9, for the new Tuscan Kitchen & Market in Portsmouth (581 Lafayette Road). According to a press release, the new concept debut featured an on-site pasta tasting along with artisan bread and Italian cookies in honor of the new location set to open next summer. See tuscanbrands.com.

• **Wine Week returns:** More than 60 winemakers from across the nation and globe will gather in the Granite State for the 11th annual New Hampshire Wine Week, hosted by the New Hampshire Liquor Commission. From Monday, Jan. 25, to Sunday, Jan. 31, owners and winemakers will take part in the region's largest wine-tasting event, which also features wine dinners, in-store tastings and celebrity winemakers. "Along with unprecedented access to some of the biggest names in the wine world, what is so exciting about NH Wine Week is that wine aficionados and novices alike have the opportunity to explore a wide range of wines and styles," Nicole Brassard Jordan, NHLHC director of sales, marketing, merchandising and warehousing, said in a press release. "NH Wine Week provides an unparalleled opportunity for people to step outside their comfort zones and to try wines they have never tasted before." For a full list of events see nhwineweek.com.

• **Fire at the Gas Light:** A fire burned its way through the Portsmouth Gas Light Co. building (64 Market St., Portsmouth) last week, requiring about 75 firefighters from at least 16 departments to put out the flames. According to NHPR, the Portsmouth Herald reported that the initial damage assessment for the building (built in 1880) is \$2.1 million. Fire Chief Steven Achilles said that the fire began in a duct for the restaurant's wood-fired oven.

• **Holiday happenings:** Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sadoway) hosts the annual **Jingle Ball Holiday Party** on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Enjoy dinner and dancing that starts with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres. The four-course dinner includes wild mushroom bisque, roasted apple salad, roasted beef tenderloin and chicken oscar, and pecan and golden raisin bread pudding. For tickets (\$58 per person) see vineyard-eventsnh.com or call 887-8463. Let your

53 ▶

Looking for more food and drink fun? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and hipposcout.com.

The Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, 429-2022, homesteadnh.com) will serve its full menu until 8 p.m. on a "first come, first served" basis.

- **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, thebistroatlabelle.com) The Bistro will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Highway, Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) will serve lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 9 p.m.

- **Martha's Exchange** (185 Main St., Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com) will be open regular hours (11 a.m. to 11 p.m.) at the bar. The kitchen will most likely close early.

- **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) will serve from its regular menu from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Old Europe** (76 N. Main St., Concord, 856-7181, oldeuropenh.com) will be open for regular hours serving from the regular menu.

- **Piccola Italia** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 606-5100, piccolaitalianh.com) will be open until 10 p.m.

- **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091, redarrowdiner.com) is open 24 hours a day year round, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The regular menu will be available along with specials.

- **The Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will serve from its regular menu (plus specials) until 8 p.m.

- **Republic Cafe & Bistro** (1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com) will be open for breakfast and lunch, most likely closing at 4 p.m.

- **Restaurant Tek-Nique** (170 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5629, restauranteknique.com) will be open from 4 to 9 p.m. and will serve from its regular menu.

- **River Road Tavern** (193 S. River Road, Bedford, 206-5837, riverroadtavern.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

- **Route 104 Diner** (752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120, thecman.com) will serve breakfast and lunch from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Stonehurst Manor** (3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, stonehurstmanor.com) will serve from its regular menu from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

- **Tilt'n Diner** (61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204, thecman.com) will serve breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **The Windham Restaurant** (59 Range Road, Windham, 870-9270, windhamrestaurant.com) will be open until 9 p.m., serving the full menu plus chef's specials. Reservations recommended.

- **XO on Elm** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998, xoonelm.com) will serve its regular menu from 4:30 to 11 p.m.

- **The Yard Restaurant** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com) will be open until 8 p.m., serving from the regular menu.

- **Zampa** (8 Exeter Road, Epping, 679-8772, zampa.com) will serve classic, traditional

Christmas fare from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Reservations recommended.

Open on Christmas Day

- **Epoch Restaurant & Bar at The Exeter Inn** (90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will serve lighter fare from the bar menu from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will serve a brunch buffet (\$8.95 per person) from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a dinner buffet (\$29.99 per person) from 4 to 9 p.m. Reservations recommended.

- **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Highway, Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) will serve a Grand Christmas Feast from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The menu includes starters (corn and lobster chowder with tarragon cream, peel-and-eat shrimp with lemon-horseradish cocktail sauce), entrees (roasted acorn squash with three-grain salad, roasted chicken with grape ver jus) carving station (herb-crusted slow-roasted sirloin of beef, grilled and roasted brined pork loin) and dessert (warm pumpkin and pecan cobbler, assorted cakes, pies and sweets). Cost is \$38.95 per adult, \$16.95 per child 12 and under. Reservations required.

- **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091, redarrowdiner.com) is open 24 hours a day year round, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The regular menu will be available along with specials.

- **River Road Tavern** (193 S. River Road, Bedford, 206-5837, riverroadtavern.com) will be open from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.

- **Stonehurst Manor** (3351 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-3113, stonehurstmanor.com) will serve from its holiday menu from 2 to 8 p.m. Menu items include shrimp cocktail, raspberry and brie en croute, maple-brined turkey, cranberry and blood orange duckling, roast butternut squash ravioli with winter vegetable and seasonal desserts. Children's menu includes prime rib, pasta tubes, chicken fingers, turkey and dessert.

- **Wentworth by the Sea** (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322, wentworth.com) will serve a Christmas Day Holiday Buffet from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wentworth Ballroom. Menu includes seasonal fruit and smoothies, New England raw bar, an omelet station, a Belgian waffle station, carving stations, hot entrees and dessert display. Cost is \$54.95 for adults, \$24.95 for children ages 2 to 12. Reservations required. A three-course prix fixe Christmas dinner will be served from 1 to 10 p.m. at SALT Kitchen & Bar and in the grand Dining Room. Dinner features char-grilled prime hanger steak, pan-flashed Atlantic swordfish, traditional Christmas turkey and half-roasted Christmas duckling. Cost is \$49.95 for adults, \$24.95 for children ages 2 to 12. Reservations strongly recommended. 🍷

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FOOD

Tasty tidings

Pre-order your Christmas dinners and desserts

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Place your orders soon so you can wow your holiday guests with dinners, sweets and treats from local restaurants, butcher shops and bakeries.

• **Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop** (815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544, angelaspastaandcheese.com) is taking orders until Saturday, Dec. 19. Menu includes breads (French baguette, olive roll, French crusty rolls, rustic bread, rosemary focaccia and ciabatta), savory pies (salmon and pork, both require baking), holiday desserts (like yule log, chocolate mousse tree cake, raspberry linzer torte), pies (ricotta, chocolate cream, banana cream, coconut cream, forest berry crumb, plus gluten-free options), cookies and cannolis.

• **Baked Downtown Cafe and Bakery** (1015 Elm St., Manchester, 606-1969; 249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 856-8871, bakeddowntown.com) is taking orders for its Christmas catering menu until Monday, Dec. 21. Pick-up is available Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. Menu includes turtle brownie cheesecake (\$32.99), vanilla bean cheesecake topped with cherries (\$32.99), salted caramel apple pie (\$14.75), cherry pie (\$14.75), cran-pear walnut crostada (\$14.95), rum cake (\$15.99) and white chocolate cake (\$45).

• **The Bakeshop On Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com) is taking orders for cakes, pies, pastry trays, Christmas cookies, dinner rolls and breakfast trays. Place orders by Sunday, Dec. 20. Pick up before close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmontrestaurant.com) is taking orders for pies, appetizers and other items until Wednesday, Dec. 23.

• **The Black Forest Cafe** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) will be taking orders from the bakery's Christmas menu until Sunday, Dec. 20. Pick-up is available Dec. 22, Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. Options include pies (apple, Dutch apple, cranberry apple, pecan, chocolate cream, \$18 each) pear-cranberry walnut crostata (\$18 medium, \$24 large), triple nut chocolate tart (\$25, serves 12), cakes (white chocolate franglico torte, Brooklyn blackout, chocolate mousse, old-fashioned coconut, carrot, \$24 each for small, \$36 for large) and assorted holiday cookies (\$14.95 per dozen or three sizes of cookie baskets). Food orders

from the holiday list, catering menu and marketplace are available for pick-up the three days prior to Christmas. Regular bakery selections may be available on a "first come, first served" basis.

• **Bread & Chocolate** (29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330) is taking orders for stollen and Yule logs, in addition to all regular menu items. Place orders by Saturday, Dec. 19. Available for pick-up until 4 p.m. Christmas Eve.

• **Carter Hill Orchard** (73 Carter Hill Road, Concord, 225-2625, carterhillapples.com) is taking orders for pies, pumpkin bread and zucchini bread. Place orders by Monday, Dec. 21. Pick-up is on Dec. 22.

• **Concord Food Co-op** (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop) is taking orders from its holiday specials menu, which includes natural turkeys from Stonewood Farm in Vermont (\$3.64 per pound, pick-up available Sunday, Dec. 19, through Thursday, Dec. 24) and desserts from the The Bakery Box at the co-op (gingerbread cake with maple cream cheese frosting, chocolate obsession, eggnog cheesecake and chocolate tarte). Regular catering menu options are also available.

• **Crosby Bakery** (51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851, crosbybakerynh.com) is taking orders for holiday pies (apple, apple crumb, blueberry, banana cream, coconut cream, cherry, pecan, pumpkin, custard, mince, meat, salmon and more), breads (orange cranberry, banana, date nut, pumpkin, \$4.25 each), dinner rolls (Parker House, cinnamon, oatmeal), assorted Christmas cookies and cakes, and holiday platters (pastry, salad roll, cookie) until Monday, Dec. 21. Other bakery items available for walk-in customers on a "first come, first served" basis. Payment is cash or check only.

• **Crust & Crumb** (126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com) is taking orders for breads and loaves (like vanilla-glazed cinnamon buns, cardamom pulla braid, chocolate babka and classic hand-candied fruit cake), sweets (like raspberry-filled almond linzer torte, coconut snowflake layer cake, apple streusel pie and fresh fruit tart), savorys (broccoli and cheddar quiche; bacon, onion and Swiss quiche; and pork pie with sweet potato, rosemary and apple) and mixed cookie platters. Place orders by Friday, Dec. 18.

• **The Flying Butcher** (124 Route 101A, Amherst, 598-6328, theflyingbutcher.com) is taking orders for pork roast, tenderloin roast, bone-in prime rib roast and boneless prime rib roast, plus prepared sides like garlic mashed potatoes and maple bourbon sweet potatoes and more. Pre-orders



are preferred, but walk-ins welcome up to Christmas Eve.

- **Finesse Pastries** (968 Elm St., Manchester, 232-6592, finessepastries.com) is taking orders until Thursday, Dec. 17. Then customers will be served on a “first come, first served” basis. The Christmas holiday menu includes pies (apple, blueberry, pecan and chocolate creme for \$14.95 each), cakes (cheesecake, pumpkin cheesecake, peppermint cheesecake for \$26.96/\$32.95 each), tart beausejour and tart bourdaloue (\$19.95 each), specialty items and breakfast, pastry or cookie platters (options to serve 10 or 20 to 25 people).

- **German John's Bakery** (5 W. Main St., Hillsborough, 464-5079, germanjohnsbakery.net) is taking orders for stollen, lebkuchen, pfeffernüsse and other Christmas specialties (like sweet breads, including candy cane and wreath-shaped sweet breads). Place orders at least a week in advance.

- **Hart's Turkey Farm** (233 Daniel Webster Highway, Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) is taking orders for turkey (prices vary based on size; 10- to 26-pound available) that include stuffing and gravy. A la carte options include cranberry sauce, whipped potatoes, squash, green beans, pickled beets, carrot relish, cranberry chutney, rolls, cornbread, sweet breads (blueberry, pumpkin, coffee cake), pies, cakes, cheesecakes and apple crisp. Christmas Eve pick-up times between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- **The Happy Butchers** (222 Elm St., Milford, 554-1339, thehappybutchers.com) is taking orders for whole or half racks of beef ribs, Boar's Head sweet sliced hams and all of its regular menu items. Place orders for Christmas as early as possible. Pick-up is available from Monday, Dec. 21, until 6 p.m. Christmas Eve.

- **Just Like Mom's Pastries** (353 Riverdale Road, Weare, 529-6667, justlikemomspastries.com) is taking orders until Saturday, Dec. 19. The menu includes assorted holiday cakes (traditional Yule log for \$28, mint chocolate cream for \$15, drunken cannoli cake for \$23 or \$32),

mini whoopie platters (\$24 small, \$48 large), holiday cookie platters (\$35 small, \$70 large), finger pastry platters (includes cheesecake cupcakes, carrot cupcakes, butter brickle, pecan diamonds, \$35 small, \$65 large) sticky buns (\$3.99 each or \$26 for a 10-inch cluster), quiche (meat or veggie, \$16.50) and pork pies (\$15.99).

- **Kay's Bakery** (443 Lake Ave., Manchester, 625-1132) is taking orders for holiday pies (cream pies, meat pies and fruit pies) plus baklava, spanakopita, Christmas cookies, pastry trays, butter twists and eclairs. Place orders by Saturday, Dec. 19.

- **Michelle's Gourmet Pastries & Deli** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, michellesspastries.com) is taking orders from its regular menu along with seasonal specials like mini pastry platters (which include linzer bars, German chocolate bars, brownies, cannolis, eclairs, peanut butter dream bars, petit fours, holiday cookies and chocolate-dipped strawberries; 18-piece for \$15.99, 36-piece for \$28.99, 50-piece for \$37.99), assorted holiday cookies, mini pastries by the piece and Yule logs (\$29).

- **Newell Post Restaurant** (125 Fisherville Road, Concord, 228-0522, newellpostrestaurant.com) is taking orders for its Christmas holiday meals to go. Dinner options are choice prime au jus sauce (\$28.99) with roasted red potatoes, butternut squash, sugar snap peas, confetti salad, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and choice of chocolate Yule log or cheesecake with eggnog topping or slow-roasted turkey (\$19.99) with herb stuffing and gravy, butternut squash, sugar snap peas, confetti salad, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and choice of chocolate Yule log or cheesecake with eggnog topping. Dinners are packed family style, ready to heat and serve.

- **Old Tyme Butcher** (1100 Hooksett Road, Suite 111, Hooksett, 669-3001, facebook.com/oldtymebutcher) is offering package deals along with prime rib roast, pork roast and other options. Place orders by Wednesday, Dec. 23. Pick-up times vary for the days leading up to Christmas.

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Manchester, 624-4999, qccupcakes.com) is taking orders for holiday cupcakes (vanilla bean, chocolate, peanut butter cup, red velvet, raspberry snowball, candy cane crinkle cookie, cannoli, chocolate-covered cherry, gingerbread, eggnog, Christmas pretzel twist, chocolate salted caramel) until Tuesday, Dec. 22. Pick up on Christmas Eve until 4 p.m.

• **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091, redarrowdiner.com) pies and cakes are available to order. Call the restaurant or go online to place orders 48 hours before desired pick-up time. Double-layer cakes (\$29.99) include rocky road, pumpkin spice, death by chocolate, chocolate peppermint, Boston creme, almond raspberry and more. Ten-inch pies (\$14.99) include pumpkin cream, pork, custard, cherry, blueberry, banana cream, Moe's favorite apple and more. Salmon pie costs \$16.99.

• **Triolo's Bakery** (21 Kilton Road, Bedford, 232-3256, triolobakery.com) is taking orders for cakes, cookies, platters and more. Place orders four or five days before Christmas for pick-up on Christmas Eve.

• **Tuscan Market** (63 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) is taking orders from its holiday catering menu. Package options (serves 6 to 8) include a whole roasted turkey dinner (\$150), standing rib roast dinner (\$200) and leoncini ham dinner (\$150). A la carte sides include baccala salad, calamari salad, pecorino-stuffed artichokes, mascarpone whipped potatoes, herb gravy, Brussels sprouts pancetta apple, cranberry marsala wine compote, porcini mushroom ciabatta stuffing and more (prices vary). Dessert selections include assorted Italian cookies, canno-

li, lobster tail, tiramisu, assorted tarts, rum cake, coconut macaroons and more (prices vary). Holiday dinner package includes a complimentary bottle of Italian wine. All roasts are uncooked, seasoned with garlic, rosemary, salt and pepper, and come with cooking instructions. Pick-up is available Thursday, Dec. 24, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• **Washington Street Catering** (88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, washingtonstreetcatering.com) offers packaged or a la carte options from its holiday menu including a roasted turkey dinner (turkey with gravy, traditional stuffing, mashed potatoes, roasted butternut squash and a holiday pie) and a maple-glazed ham dinner (spiral-cut maple-glazed ham, mashed sweet potatoes, sauteed green beans with slivered almonds and a holiday pie). Dinners cost \$19.99 per person. Side options include mashed potatoes, mashed sweet potatoes, rosemary-infused roasted Yukon potatoes, traditional stuffing, apple and cranberry stuffing, Brussels sprouts with bacon and balsamic glaze, sauteed green beans with slivered almonds, carrots, roasted butternut squash, turkey gravy and cranberry sauce as well as holiday pies (blueberry, apple and pecan). Place orders in advance. Delivery also available.

• **Wicked Good Butchah** (460 Route 101, Bedford, 488-1832, wickedgoodbutchah.com) is taking orders for its full catering menu plus holiday favorites bone-in prime rib and pork roast right up until Christmas Eve.

• **The Wine'ing Butcher** (16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 856-8855; 254 Wallace Road, Bedford, 488-5519; 28 Weirs Road, Gilford, 293-4670; 81 Route 25, Meredith, 279-0300, thewineingbutcher.com) is taking orders from its holiday menu for USDA choice beef (tenderloin roast, bone-in rib-eye roast, boneless rib roast, sirloin roast), USDA prime beef (bone-in rib-eye, rib-eye roast, sirloin roast) ham (whole spiral, sweet slice and triple M spiral) and turkey, all priced per pound. Other options include appetizers (like mini crab cakes, deviled eggs, scallops in bacon), main course (like stuffed lobster tail, stuffed sole, vegetable lasagna), sides (like whipped potato, sausage stuffing, turkey gravy) and desserts (creme brulee, peppermint cheesecake, chocolate mousse cake, chocolate cream pie, cheesecake). Assorted small and large platters also available.

• **Wellington's Marketplace** (124 N. Main St., Concord, 715-1191, facebook.com/wellingtonsmarketplace) is offering items from its prepared foods case like cheese platters, charcuterie, roasted tomatoes and shrimp skewers on a "first come, first served" basis. Patrons are encouraged to place orders in advance as well. Open on Christmas Eve until 4 p.m. 🍷

inner child revel in sweet Christmas fun during Culinary Playground's (16 Manning St., Suite 105, Derry, 339-1664) **adult gingerbread house decorating workshop** on Friday, Dec. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. For \$35 a house, bring friends, family or a partner to enjoy holiday music and cocoa (guests are also welcome to BYOB). See culinary-playground.com for more.

• **Season of giving:** During December, Cucina Aurora (9-11 Delaware Drive, Suite 1, Salem, 458-6159, cucinaaurora.com) is collecting troop care package donations as part of **Operation Gratitude Holiday Card and Gift Drive**. According to a press release, they're offering a \$1 discount per product donated at their "Open Cupboard" events held every Friday this month. Customers are invited to purchase products straight from the warehouse (9 Delaware Drive, Salem). "The more you come from

a place of gratitude, the more you have to be grateful for," owner Dawn Hunt said in the press release. "If you don't give back to the community that helps you succeed then what is the point of doing business in the first place?" The Red Arrow Diner announced in a press release that they supported **Tower for Toys** again this year on Wednesday, Dec. 16. "Our team is proud to be a part of this holiday tradition again in 2015," Red Arrow Diners President Carol Lawrence said in the press release. "The holidays are a difficult time for many families in this area, and the Tower of Toys can brighten holiday memories for these displaced and disadvantaged families." The Tower of Toys (set up in the atrium of the Beacon Building in Manchester) collected toys to donate to Families in Transition, Girls, Inc., and McDonough, Hallsville, Gossler Park and Northwest Elementary school families. 🍫

Food Fairs/festivals/expos

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION** Individuals of all ages, families and groups may build a house from any material, as long as exterior decoration is entirely edible (house must fit a 24-by-24 inch platform). See them in the children's room until the gingerbread party and prize ceremony on Mon., Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. See rogerslibrary.org.

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DISPLAY** 25th annual contest, part of Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth. See the houses daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thurs., Dec. 24. Extended hours Fridays and Saturdays (until 8 p.m.). Discover Portsmouth, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth. Exhibit is free and open to the public. See portsmouthhistory.org or vintagechristmasnh.org.

• **GINGERBREAD VILLAGE** See this year's game board themed gingerbread village. Visit the display during business hours or see it lit up through the window through the first week of Jan. Frederick's Pastries, 109 Route 101A, Amherst. See pastry.net.

Chef events/special meals

• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** Written by George Hosker-Bouley. Annual production features a three course dinner, live music and holiday songs. Thurs., Dec. 17. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show at 6 p.m. Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. \$39.99, includes dinner. Call The Old Salt (926-0330) for reservations. See underbellyports.net.

HOLIDAY DINNERS AT THE WILLIAM PITT TAVERN

Four course colonial holiday dinner, live music and libations from the Portsmouth Brewery. Held in conjunction with Candlelight Stroll weekends at Strawberry Banke Museum. Sat., Dec. 19, Sun., Dec. 20. Seatings at 4, 6 and 8 p.m. across from Pickwick's at the Banke, 43 Atkinson St., Portsmouth. Cost is \$65 per person, \$25 per child. For reservations, visit Pickwick's Mercantile (call 427-8671) or Pickwick's at The Banke.

• **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Sun., Dec. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Red Blazer, 72 Manchester St., Concord. Offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Breakfast buffet is \$11.99 for adults, \$7.99 for children 4 to 10. See theredblazer.com.

• **PARFAIT BAR SUNDAY** Create your own parfait with granola, dried and fresh fruit, yogurt, fruit coulis and more. Sun. from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Concord Food Co-op, 24 S. Main St., Concord. Cost is \$5.99 per pound. See concordfoodcoop.com.

• **CONCORD FOOD CO-OP BRUNCH** Brunch buffet at The Co-op's Celery Stick Café with build-your-own omelet station. Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Concord Food Co-op, 24 S. Main St., Concord. Call 410-3099, or visit concordfoodcoop.com.

Church & charity suppers/bake sales

• **COMMUNITY SUPPER** Menu features a roast turkey dinner with all the fixings, plus a pumpkin treat for dessert. Fri., Dec. 18, from 5 to 6 p.m. Grace

Episcopal Church, 30 Eastman St., Concord. Supper is free; donations welcome. Donations support the Take-A-Tote ministry that helps feed Concord's hungry school children. See graceeastconcord.org.

• **COMMUNITY SUPPER** Monthly community supper. On the third Wed. of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford, 20 Elm St., Milford. Visit uucm.org.

Classes/workshops

• **HOLIDAY MACARON** Learn how to make the French macaron from scratch with filling. Holiday edition class features peppermint, eggnog, chai and cinnamon flavors. Fri., Dec. 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Finesse Pastries, 968 Elm St., Manchester. Cost \$60. Workshops fill up fast; register in advance. Visit finessepastries.com or call 232-6592.

• **ADULT GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING** Enjoy holiday music and cocoa or BYOB. Fri., Dec. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. The Culinary Playground, 16 Manning Street, Suite 105, Derry. Cost is \$45 per house. Visit culinary-playground.com.

• **HOLIDAY DESSERTS** Hands-on baking experience. Sat., Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chez Boucher, 32 Depot Sq., Hampton. Cost is \$99. See chezboucher.com.

• **COOKIE DECORATING** This all ages event has cookies ready to decorate with frosting, sprinkles and candy. Wed., Dec. 23, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Sq., Hollis. Register online or call 465-7721. See hollislibrary.org.



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IN THE KITCHEN WITH MOHAMAD CHATILA

Twenty-eight years ago, Mohamad Chatila decided to open a bakery with one defining factor — every item in the shop must be sugar-free. Today, Chatila's Bakery (The Breckinridge Plaza, 254 N. Broadway, Salem, 898-5459, chatilabakery.com) makes everything from cakes and cookies to lobster tails and muffins, all with a health-conscious mindset. When designing the recipes, Chatila (a retired physician) and his brother (manager for their production factory in Derry) broke down the sodium, calories, carbs and fats found in baked goods to determine how they could put together their own tasty yet healthier varieties using artificial and alternative sweeteners. Chatila's also makes gluten-free items and recently launched a commercial line that will be available in stores outside the state.



What is your must-have kitchen item?

A spoon, because a spoon is more practical for me to taste [with].

What would you choose for your last meal?

Fruit and vegetables. I like apples, bananas ... cucumber, tomatoes, olives, onions. I like to have salads on a daily basis. My salad, I don't like lettuce, lettuce I look as at just like, green leaves. I like fresh lemon juice and olive oil [and mint].

What is your favorite ingredient to bake with?

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What is your favorite local restaurant?

I like Mediterranean food, which is my kitchen. I'm Lebanese. I like Lebanese, Greek, Turkish, because they have the same kitchen. I don't like pasta [or] pizza too much. Jocelyn's [Mediterranean Restaurant & Martini Lounge in Salem], they have a very good kitchen.

What celebrity would you like to share a meal with?

Oprah. We ship [products] to her.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

Lamb. Roasted with garlic [and] allspice.

What is your favorite dessert?

My favorite dessert is ... kataifi. It's like filo dough shredded. It's round, filled with pistachio. — Allie Ginwala

Almond snickerdoodles

From the kitchen of Chatila's Bakery

- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup Splenda
- 2 cups almond flour
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

Coating:

- 1/2 cup toasted almonds, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon Splenda

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Mix margarine and Splenda at medium speed until fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla. Mix well. In a separate bowl, combine flour, almond flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon and stir well. Pour the dry mix into the wet mix and stir well. Form dough into 36 balls. For coating, stir almonds, Splenda and cinnamon in a bowl. Roll the balls in the coating and place on cookie sheet approximately 1 inch apart. Bake 10 minutes until golden. Cool on wire rack and enjoy.

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FOOD

A mulled tradition

What's up with wassail

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

For some, the word “wassail” brings about images of carolers strolling through snow-covered streets, while for others it's simply a drink to help warm your insides during the cold New England winters. The Hippo spoke with local cider- and mead-makers to get their knowledge on the history of the seasonal mulled beverage and ways to make it at home.

Steve Wood, owner of Farnum Hill Ciders & Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon, thinks that the tradition surrounding wassail — both the drink and the experience — is open for interpretation.

“In the southwest of England ... it was a Twelfth Night celebration that got tied up with the health of apple trees,” he said in a phone interview.

Though ale was most likely the original alcohol used in the mulled beverage, he said wassail has come to be widely associated with cider.

“We would say that wassail to us is the first racking of the current season's cider, [the] first rough cider of the cider season,” he said. “I think in a way we're sticking with what I consider to be the tradition and all the things associated with it.”

Berniece Van Der Berg, vice president of sales and marketing at Moonlight Meadery in Londonderry, thinks that a hearty apple harvest was most likely at the crux of wassail tradition.

“In medieval days they would have a good apple harvest celebration, and the drinking ritual was they would drink the drink as a celebrator or a toast to a good harvest next year,” she said in a phone interview.

In the mead world, she said the term “wassail” has been adopted as a toast, used similarly to “cheers” or “bottoms up.”

“You're supposed to look someone in the eye, raise your glass and take your drink,” she said. “And everyone will say ‘wassail’ and consume the beverage.”

Try it at home

There are many ways to go about making wassail (just do a quick Google search for piles of recipes), each with just a few mandatory components. Since it's a mulled drink, the first step is mulling the base liquid — which can be cider, mead, wine or beer — by slightly heating it.

“I would heat the base in a microwave or a saute pot,” Van Der Berg said.

Make sure you don't heat it too much though, because that could cause the alcohol to evaporate, she said.



Make wassail at home with Moonlight Meadery products. Photo by Kevin Harkins.

Next, add spices like cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, plus sugar and baked apples.

“I've even known people to add oranges and ginger so it's become the mix that you like,” Van Der Berg said, noting that the flavor profile can change based on individual taste. “The main thing is [that] this a mulled and warmed concoction.”

Silas Gordon, co-owner of North Country Hard Cider in Rollinsford, doesn't subscribe to the term “wassail” but does make a mulled seasonal cider for the colder months.

“It's our Northern Comfort, and it's a pretty wonderful thing,” he said in a phone interview.

Packaged and sold cold, the cider is infused with a blend of mulling spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, orange peel and crystallized ginger, Gordon said.

“[People] can warm it up at home if they want, add some bourbon or rum,” he said.

For those who want to add flavors on top of the cider or mead base, Van Der Berg recommended mulling spice sacks for an easy and tasty home-mulled wassail.

“[They're] almost like tea bags where it is pre-packed for you and you can just warm up your beverage and then just add in your little spice sack,” she said. “Just like tea, and steep it to taste.”

While they don't sell spice sacks, Van Der Berg said customers coming to Moonlight Meadery to learn about wassail will be directed toward three base beverages. Kurt's Apple Pie is an apple cider with cinnamon and bourbon vanilla bean mead that's not overly sweet. Indulge has a vanilla cinnamon sweetness reminiscent of a Cinnabon. Breathless is “probably the most unique mead ... a cinnamon oil mead that tastes like a fireball candy,” she said, with an “intense punch of cinnamon.”

Salad dressings

Eating fresh fruits and vegetables is key this time of year. Maybe you're lucky enough to be buying local winter squash or root vegetables or perhaps, like me, you've started shopping at the grocery store again for your produce. It's a tough time of year in New England for growing! Even though we've had a mild fall this year, there is always a lack of fresh local produce during the colder seasons.

And speaking of colder seasons, we are also entering cold season! There's no better time than now to start being mindful of what you eat in order to keep sickness at bay. Watching what you eat can play a huge role in keeping your immune system strong.



Kristin Kirkpatrick writes about the key nutrients your immune system needs on the Cleveland Clinic's website (health.clevelandclinic.org). Almost all of them can be found in fresh fruits and vegetables. In fact, I find I can cover all of them with a great salad. From the leafy greens to seeds, salads are the way to go. The only problem? Dressings. This country is guilty of turning even the healthiest salads into junk food with our dressings. It doesn't have to be this way! With a little effort, dressings can become just as integral to our fight for health as the vegetables themselves. Here are a few of my favorite recipes.

— Allison Willson Dudas

Barbecue "Ranch" Dressing

¼ cup tomato paste
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 clove garlic minced
1 teaspoon onion powder
½ teaspoon sea salt
¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil

½ cup water
2-percent Greek yogurt

In a medium saucepan whisk together 1/2 cup of water, tomato paste, vinegar, maple syrup, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, onion powder, salt, and pepper flakes. Bring sauce to a boil on medium-high heat and continue to boil for 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in oil. Combine with Greek yogurt, varying amount depending on creaminess desired.

Caesar Dressing

½ cup 2-percent Greek yogurt
2½ tablespoons fresh lemon juice
½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
2 cloves garlic, chopped

2 anchovies
1/3-1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
Salt & pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in blender or food processor, tasting along the way.

Dijon Balsamic Vinaigrette

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
Salt & pepper, to taste

1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

Combine all ingredients except olive oil. Gently stir in oil, trying along the way.

Apple cider vinaigrette

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons maple syrup
½ cup olive oil
Coarse sea salt

Fresh ground black pepper

Whisk together first three ingredients. While whisking, slowly drizzle in oil. Season to taste. Store in jar in fridge for up to a week.

Dnners and events

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DRINK

Sweet move

Vineyard relocates to Hampstead estate



Sweet Baby Vineyards. Courtesy photo.

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

This column is all about wine, yes, but for me, it is also about people. One of my favorite parts about writing it has been meeting local winemakers, getting to know them and their families and watching them grow through continued success.

Within the last few years, we have seen LaBelle Winery move to its gorgeous new location in Amherst and Hermit Woods Winery refurbish and ultimately move into its beautiful location on Main Street in Meredith. Now, it is Sweet Baby Vineyards' turn to celebrate with the relocation of its winery to a breathtaking estate in Hampstead.

The Eatons began producing wine in five-gallon batches several years ago, and I have heard Lewis joke that it was a hobby that got out of hand. He spent 15 years as an engineer working on bridges before making the leap to full-time winemaker, and taking that chance has certainly paid off. They opened the winery in 2008 and the rest, as they say, is history.

The winery was originally located at the Eatons' family home in Kensington, where they grew grapes in the backyard and eventually remodeled their garage into a wine tasting area with more production space. As much locally sourced fruit as possible was brought in to make fruit wines, ranging from apple and blueberry to peach, pear and apple cranberry.

The next chapter in the winery's story brought them to East Kingston, where a rental space provided a nice tasting room area above the wine production and storage areas. Grapes were still grown out of the family's backyard and used at the winery. Even though this location was comfortable, I heard Lewis and Stacey say that their ultimate goal was to find a farm where they could once again live and run the business from the same location.

It seems a dream has come true with the relocation of the winery and the Eaton family to Hampstead. In addition to the lovely

and well-maintained farmhouse, there is a large barn for storage, another outbuilding for wine production and a two-level tasting space that is roomy and comfortable. During a recent visit and brief tour, Lewis said he has no idea what they are going to do with the tennis court, but the kids seemed to enjoy running around on it. The property is an ideal location for special events and seasonal outdoor tastings, and Lewis said it's something they are definitely considering for the future.

They were still getting settled, but on the day we visited the tasting room was packed. In between conversations with guests, Lewis was busy filling wine racks, while other guests asked when certain wines were going to be back in stock.

I am looking forward to the return of their Barn Door Red, a new red blend of four New Hampshire grapes that has been so popular they can't keep it in stock.

The same goes for their Farm Stand White, a semi-sweet blend of five grapes, which was selling out so quickly that day that we had to claim a bottle while we were still tasting wine.

The blueberry wine is reportedly the winery's most popular seller currently, and area stores have reported that it is tough to keep on the shelves.

If you haven't visited Sweet Baby Vineyard yet, now is a great time to do so. And if you have visited before, go check out the new location at 260 Stage Road (Route 121) in Hampstead. It is easy to get to, there is plenty of parking, and the new tasting room is very comfortable.

There is nothing like seeing hard work pay off, and our local New Hampshire winemakers surely put a lot of it into their winemaking and businesses. Many of them not only produce the wine from vine to bottle, but they distribute it as well. This Christmas, consider giving local wines as gifts, which helps support all of these hardworking winemakers. I am proud to call many of them not only wine industry acquaintances, but friends as well. 🍷

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• Cool Uncle, *Cool Uncle*

B-

• Hound, *Out of Space* A

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Basically a rebirth of the career of 1970s/'80s AOR-chill-soul singer Bobby Caldwell's career, a 64-year-old whose one-hit legend revolves around the 1978 single "What You Won't Do for Love," which somehow, thanks to the great karmic lottery in the sky, ended up getting sampled by half the hip-hop class of the last 20 years, and yes, that includes Tupac. The engine for this proposition was provided by Alicia Keys/Kendrick Lamar producer Jack Splash, who once stated that working with Caldwell was one of his dreams.

Now, this is all well and good, but it's going to take a lot more than Splash's corporate-approved cred to move this past the novelty stage. Cee-Lo, who's also worked with Splash, is here, contributing some throaty harmonies to the sparkly but slightly weird "Mercy," Caldwell's Peter Cetera imitation working well in the context. Strip away the phase-shifters, feats and glitch drums, though, and you're left with third-string Earth Wind & Fire non-starters, such as "Destiny," and sleepy Vegas-era Frankie Avalon microwaving ("Embrace the Night") — this just looks to me like a handy sample repository for Dre and all those guys.

B- — *Eric W. Saeger*

Hound, *Out of Space* (SRA Records)



Good a time as any to check in on the speed-stoner enclave, which has been lacking in real leadership up to this point aside from High on Fire, which this loud Philadelphia trio is aping, if you want my opinion. Hound shows up at the party with a lot of fringe cred, being that singer-guitarist Perry Shall has contributed artwork and videos to such indie mainstays as JEFF the Brotherhood, Pujol and Tweens, none of whom are actually representative of Shall's chosen genre, but that's another handful of cred points in the Deafheaven era. Ignoring all the preceding nonsense, what we have here is a vision of J Mascis's Witch band gone NWOBHM, sort of, or at least that's all the hipster writers can come up with; as I was saying, it's a cooler, less raw High on Fire that fits in between early Slayer and dusty old street-metal a la Riot. Nothing wrong with the riffing, and Shall's voice is comparable to Ozzy's, leaving a wide opening for fans of Motorhead and hair-metal alike. A

— *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• It's the least wonderful time of the year for CD reviewers, because anyone who puts out an album during the actual week of Christmas may as well title it *I Do Not Want People to Buy My Album*. Madness, I'm telling you. What shall we talk about? Do you miss **Madness**, the band? I wonder what they're doing nowadays. Hmm, well, they're still touring, as of 2015! Their last album was *Oui Oui Si Si Ja Ja Da Da*. Fun fact: they weren't "skinheads," you know, or that's what Wikipedia says. This week's column is turning into an Andy Kaufman bit, because I've been binge-watching Andy Kaufman on YouTube. OK, let's talk about actual albums that will be coming out the week of Christmas. No? You'd rather talk about comedians, like my favorite, **Doug Stanhope**? Well, we can't.

• Did you know that there is only one CD on Amazon that has more than one disc of **Al Jolson** performing his pop songs in the 1920s and 1930s? I bought one; it's a two-disc set called *Great Al Jolson*. It had to be shipped from England, but it was worth it. Yes, I know, there's *The Jazz Singer*, but that wasn't what I was looking for.

• **JJ Grey & MOFRO** play weird old-school North American blues and folk on their new LP *Ol' Glory*. It's sort of country music, but really raw, and that's about all I know, because the bio on Amazon was written by someone who was apparently so drunk they could barely type. Also, the album has already been released, but wiki or someone had it listed as coming out next week, whereas Amazon says this album, which is already out, will be released in February. Someone is drunk, and it's not me.

• Thought it couldn't get more disturbing? Guess again. **Cindy Lee** will release a new album, called *Act of Tenderness*. Man is she weird. The single "Power & Possession" is quirk at its quirkiest, Chinese string-plucking and faraway shoegaze vocals. Who is this strange person? No one seems to know. Maybe you do? I don't.

• You may recall Mississippi hip-hop brother-duo **Rae Sremmurd** from 2014, when their self-titled debut hit the bigs with "No Flex Zone," a tune whose official remix featured Nicki Minaj and Pusha T. The cleverly named *SremmLife 2* is coming out sometime soon, but no one can give me a straight answer as to exactly when. We'll count it as a release for the week of Christmas so I can just end this misery. — *Eric W. Saeger*

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ksennott@hippopress.com

You're not supposed to judge a book by its cover, but people do it anyway.

"People really care about what the book looks like," said Meghan Petersen, Currier Museum librarian and archivist at the museum's latest library focus installation, "Cover Story: The Art of Book Binding."

The show, on view through Feb. 19, is located down the stairs, after you walk through the front doors, and it's displayed in cases and along the walls. It contains 33 books from the Currier's rare books collection (which totals about 17,000 titles) from the years 1700 to 2015, all of which feature interesting or unusual bindings — metal bindings, accordion bindings, string binding, wooden box bindings, etc.

"Part of the goal with this exhibition series is to let people know, we do have this component to the collection," Petersen said. "And you can either come in during open hours, or you can schedule an appointment with me and see them in person, which is great because you actually get to touch the books."

Another goal was to get people to think of the book as an object and highlight its physicality. How do a binding and a book's physical components affect your reading experience?

"I think there are a lot of conversations right now around e-books. People start to wonder, what actually is a book?" Petersen said. "We started [working on the show] about 10 months ago. We just started noticing how many beautiful books we have that sort of demonstrated these different moments in book design and book history."

Petersen is the Currier's only librarian and archivist, and in addition, she generates programming on the bottom floor, next to the Currier's library. She's been at the job five years this February, and unlike past Currier librarian staff, her background is not in art research, but as an archivist, studying the history of the book. A lot of this exhibition came from a project she's working on cataloguing the backlog of the museum's collection.

"I think a lot of what we're trying to do is take advantage of the collections that we have. It's a very respectable collection," she said. "And as we looked and explored these books, they demonstrate some of the most elaborate types of book design."

Part of her job has also been to determine why the museum even has some of these titles. For most, it's obvious; they're books showcasing famous artists, famous photographers, or they're titles by famous authors with equally famous illustrators. It was hard to

determine the significance of other titles, like *Always Murder a Friend* by Margaret Scherf.

"This was definitely one of those question marks. Why do we have this book? But on closer inspection, it turns out this book cover, we're quite sure, was designed by one of our former directors, Charles Buckley," Petersen said.

Buckley served as Currier Museum of Art director from 1955 to 1964, and alongside the book cover and wall text information are a handful of his lithographs.

Another text, a collection of poetry by William Wordsworth, is tree calf-bound, a late 18th-century technique in which leather is stained to produce a dark tree-like pattern.

"It's hard to execute, and very hard to do. The person that did that would have been studying for decades," Petersen said.

Some book owners would adopt a way of binding all their books alike for fine shelf aesthetic, and many authors — the more famous ones — had multiple book jackets meant to appeal to mass consumers, like *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck, illustrated by Robert Jonas. Still others on display are exquisite, illustrated copies, like *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville, with illustrations by Rockwell Kent.

"I often think about that moment when Oprah Winfrey wanted to include *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy [in her book club]. I think for him, it changes the reception of the book if it has Oprah's book club's label on it," she said.

The largest book of the lot is a bible, more than three times the size of any other on display, complete with metal locks.

"When a book is large vs. small like this, what's your impression of the book? When it has locks, does it intimidate you?" Petersen said.

Petersen said she's been working more with curators to find ways for the collection to help tell richer stories for the art shows upstairs. Her next project is the focus exhibition, "Shakespeare's Potions," to go along with the writer's "First Folio" show in April.

Unlike the rest of the museum's materials, the books you can touch.

"These books have been crafted and made by makers and artists, and this is one place in the collection where you can sit with a rare book in your hand and touch it and feel it and smell it. And that's kind of an exciting opportunity," she said.

Check out "Cover Story: The Art of Book Binding"

Where: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester

When: On view through Feb. 19

Contact: 669-6144, currier.org

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POP CULTURE BOOKS

Spending the Holidays with People I Want to Punch in the Throat, by Jen Mann (Ballantine, 196 pages)

In the crowded marketplace that is publishing today, some books get traction just because of their titles. Kansas blogger Jen Mann had a knockout with her first book, *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*, a collection of humorous essays about parenting and family life. That book came to pass after a blog post called “Overachieving Elf on the Shelf Mommies” went viral, eventually growing Mann’s blog readership from about 70 to some 750,000.

Now Mann is back, demonstrating a gift for shrewd marketing, with a holiday take on her brand. *Spending the Holidays With People I Want to Punch in the Throat* resuscitates the essay that started it all and drapes holly and berries over Mann’s essential shtick: sardonic and occasionally profane observations about the absurdities of family life.

Make no mistake: It was the title, not the content, that made the first book a bestseller, and this iteration is juvenile as often as it is funny. Even in book form, the content remains a blog, and Mann’s writing lacks the sophistication and bite of other blog-to-book authors like Glennon Doyle Melton and Jenny Lawson. Theirs is a wrapped gift, Mann’s a stocking stuffer. But that’s not to say it’s not occasionally great fun.

Mann is mother to two kids, Gomer and Adolpha — not their real names, of course — and wife to a man who is also irritatingly pseudonymed and goes by “The Hubs.” They comprise the core cast, along with Mann’s mother, a compulsive decorator; her father, “the enabler,” and a brother. There is a generous smattering of backup rela-



tives, all guaranteed to faintly resemble some of your most outlandish ones, and their holidays are probably much like yours, though possibly with a little more snark.

Here’s Mann on the holiday obligations of her trademark enemy, the overachieving mom: “Now that the gifts for the unimportant in their lives have been decided, the conversation moves into the I’m-so-tired-humble-brag zone. This is where all of them must compete against each other to see who is *literally* the busiest and most exhausted. In order to win the title of Most Overscheduled, you can’t just have a calendar full of shopping dates and hair appointments. That simply won’t do. Workouts must be doubled because it’s cookie season.”

On holiday tipping: “Lucky for me I don’t feel the pressure to give my hairdresser anything for the holidays. I just don’t book any appointments between late November and early January. It’s hell on my roots but easy on my wallet.”

On family Christmas photos: “Every Christmas, my mother puts our pictures through the years on display around the house so we can see how adorable we once were. How sad is it that I peaked at age 4?”

And so forth. Much here is peppermint pabulum, but there are a few jewels, including a chapter on Christmas carolers: “I strained my ears and then I heard it: the low hum of a group of people whispering on my porch. ‘Go check it out,’ I whispered. We crept to the front door so we could peek through the window. *Is this a home invasion?* I worried.”

But there is not enough material to fill even a slim paperback book, which is why, toward the end, Mann resorts to a round-up of holi-

days, as in “Thanksgiving Day Parades Suck When They’re Not in HD” and “Nice Halloween Costume, Was Skank Sold Out?” (Truly, this woman is a genius at titles.) The latter, in which Mann hilariously re-creates a Halloween party attended by a man and a woman dressed, respectively, as an electrical outlet and a plug, presents somewhat of a marketing dilemma: How to reconcile the mother of young children (then ages 8 and 10) railing against borderline pornographic costumes with the sardonic, profane curmudgeon who stalks through this book throwing eggnog on hallowed family traditions. You can’t be both saint and sinner.

And for all her griping, Mann’s relatives actually sound like people we’d like to hang out with, especially her adorable Uncle Olaf, who each year devises a family-based trivia game for everyone to play on Christmas Eve, complete with this devious bit of genius: video trivia, in which he projects, for example, “an extreme close-up of an eyeball on his big-screen television” and then say “This eyeball belongs to someone in our family.” Winners get to choose from horrendously tacky gifts in a white-elephant pile. Sign me up.

The holiday edition of *People I Want to Punch in the Throat* is much like the holidays themselves: sustained mania made tolerable with drinking and cussing and occasional unexpected pockets of sweetness and light. While it’s about family, it’s not family-friendly, and not the sort of book to leave on the coffee table of a house with young children.

But if you, too, cuss like a sailor, and all the fa-la-laing makes you want to lunge for the nearest throat, this book could help. Sometimes, an overdose of merriment requires a stiff shot of grumpy. But for the record, the pre-spirit Scrooge provides it, smarter and better.

C+ — Jennifer Graham

CHILDREN’S ROOM

A weekly recommendation from the Concord Public Library



A Christmas Carol



Written by Charles Dickens, retold by Benjamin Harper, illustrated by Dono Sanchez-Almara, 2015
(Graphic novel, ages 10-14)



This graphic novel presents the seasonal favorite in a colorful, approachable format. The plot and characters remain faithful to the original. And while the illustrations of Jacob Marley’s ghost and the spirit of Christmas future might be frightening to gentler souls, the positive ending lightens the darker elements of the story. An old, familiar tale with a different look.

OUT NEXT WEEK

Time and Time Again

By Ben Elton



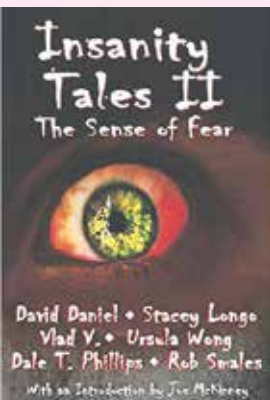
Hits shelves: Dec. 22

Author best known for: Novels like *Dead Famous* and *High Society*

One-sentence

review: “Elton’s thoroughly entertaining entry in the time-travel genre gives readers a dashing leading man trotting the globe on his secret mission to a historical moment fraught with danger, in which every choice can have unintended consequences.” — Library Journal

Book Report



• **Tales of fear:** Merimack Press and Mill. No. 5 host an author reading and signing event this Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. UMass-Lowell professor and author David Daniel and co-authors Vlad V., Rob Smales and Ursula Wong will read excerpts from their short story collection, *Insanity Tales II: The Sense of Fear*, in the Victorian Lounge at Mill

No. 5, 250 Jackson St., Lowell, Mass., on the fourth floor. The book is made up of 11 horror stories by New England writers. Email sarah@millno5.com.

• **More on Writers' Day:** Details for the 2016 New Hampshire Writers' Day have been announced. It happens Saturday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road, Hooksett. Admission is \$155 for New Hampshire Writers' Project members or \$210 for nonmembers who register before Feb. 29. This year's keynote speaker is Mitchell S. Jackson, author of *The Residue Years*, and workshop topics range from short stories and memoirs to how to promote your book and write a captivating scene. Just as in past years, there will be opportunities to pitch stories. This year, a panel of agents and editors will listen to NHPR's Virginia Prescott deliver anonymous, randomly selected 150-word pitches in an allotted time frame, and in return, panelists will offer feedback. If something interests them, they may invite the writer to follow up after the session. Visit nhwritersproject.org for more information.

• **New, local work:** New Hampshire author Richard Saunders, who goes by the pseudonym Mykl Walsh, has released a new novel, *Journey*, published by Inkshares. The book is part of a series, "SecretAgentMan," which weaves factual, historical content into a fictionalized meta-novel that explores the reincarnation of Albert Einstein. Visit inkshares.com for more on the book.

— Kelly Sennott

Books

Author Events

• **JONATHAN TASINI** Author talks about *The Essential Bernie Sanders and His Vision for America*. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Main-Street BookEnds, 16 E. Main St., Warner. Visit mainstreetbookends.com. Call 456-2700.

• **ROBERT WHEELER** talks about *Hemingway's Paris: A Writer's City in Words and Images* at Water Street BookStore, 125 Water St., Exeter, Sat., Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-noon.

• **HANNAH PAPP** Author talks about *The Mystical Backpacker: How to Discover Your Destiny in the Modern World*. Fri., Jan. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Gibson's Bookstore, 445 S. Main St., Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com/mythical-backpacker.

• **JAY ATKINSON** Author talks

about *Massacre on the Merimack: Hannah Duston's Captivity and Revenge in Colonial America*. Mon., Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m. Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry. Call 432-6140, email derrylib@derrypl.org.

• **VALERIA LUISELLI** Author talks about second novel, *Story of My Teeth*. Thurs., Feb. 25. Wine/cheese reception 5-6 p.m. followed by presentation/reading/questions. New Hampshire Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Visit nhia.edu.

• **DIANE LES BECQUETS** Author talks about *Breaking Wild*. Thurs., Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 614 Nashua St., Milford. Call 673-1734.

Lectures & discussions

• **CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS STORIES** Wassail and

caroling led by Nanette Perrotte. Sebastian Lockwood reads two nostalgic Christmas stories, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and *A Christmas Memory*. Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. \$7. Call 924-4555.

• **MODERN-DAY PERFORMANCE OF THE ODYSSEY** Storyteller Odds Bodkin puts together three-part performance in salon setting with Celtic harp and 12-string guitars. Sun., Jan. 10, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 17, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 24, at 4 p.m. Schoodacs, 1 E. Main St., Warner. \$50 for the series. Call 456-3400, email info@schoodacs.com.

Poetry events

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** Includes a poetry open-mic session with featured poets and slams. Held every Thurs. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open-mic begins around 8 p.m. Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. \$3 cover charge. Email SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286.

Book discussion groups

• **BOOKS IN THE MILL** Spring book group series with Manchester City Library and Manchester Historic Association. Meets Thursdays in the library mezzanine. Thurs., 6:30-8 p.m. Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Free. Visit manchester.unh.edu.

• **(COOK)BOOK GROUP** Discuss tips, tricks, troubles and treats with a new cookbook each meeting. Members make something from the book to share. First Fri. of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry. See derrypl.org.

• **MOTHER/DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB** Hollis Social Library. For girls grades 4-8 and their mothers. The third Wed. of every month, 6 p.m. Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. Free. Visit hollislibrary.org. Call 465-7721.

• **LITERARY LADIES** Monthly afternoon book discussion group. Call if interested in joining. Third Wed. of the month, 1 p.m. Goffstown Public Library, 2 High Street, Goffstown. Free. Call 497-2102. Visit goffstownlibrary.com/book-discussion-groups.

Hipposcout

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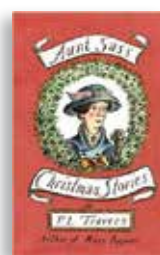
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When Santa Was a Baby

by Linda Bailey & Genevieve Godbout

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Aunt Sass: Christmas Stories

by P.L. Travers

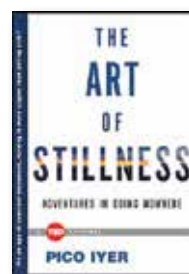
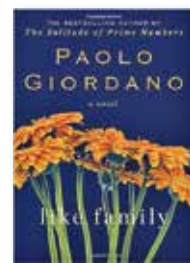
Published together for the first time, these autobiographical stories look back at special people that entered her life – especially Aunt Sass, the inspiration for Mary Poppins.

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In the Heart of the Sea (PG-13)

Men hunt whales in *In the Heart of the Sea*, a movie based on the nonfiction story that *Moby-Dick* was based on.

Writer Herman Melville (Ben Whishaw) is burning with desire to write a book based on the tale of the *Essex*, a Nantucket whaling ship that sank in the 1820s. To get the flavor of the event decades later, Melville goes to visit Tom Nickerson (Brendan Gleeson), who worked on the *Essex* as a boy (Tom Holland) and is now the last living survivor. Nickerson is at first reluctant to talk but eventually unspools the tale of the ship, its captain, George Pollard (Benjamin Walker), and first mate Owen Chase (Chris Hemsworth).

The men are not delighted to serve together. Chase thinks Pollard, a son of the ship's investor who has never captained before, is just a rich boy who doesn't know what he's doing. Pollard thinks Chase isn't seafaring folk because his father was a farmer. But they set sail in hopes of scoring a big haul of whale oil and coming home to great financial success and the promise of each captaining their own ships in the future. Chase is also driven to find the whales and come home fast by the fact that he's leaving behind a pregnant wife.

The ship sets off and, after a bit of weather trouble, does find a whale in the Atlantic — but it is the only male whale they see. They eventually round South America and begin searching the Pacific, stopping at a port where they hear shipwrecked Spanish whalers talk about a spot, a thousand leagues west along the equator, where there are whales for the picking. But the men also mention one particular whale, the reason they are now sans ship. Nonsense, says the *Essex*'s second mate, Matthew Joy (Cillian Murphy), there's no such thing as a giant, killer whale. So even though the men are uneasy about plunging so deep into the Pacific, the ship heads west. And, indeed, they do find waters teeming with whales. And, indeed, they do find one giant, angry whale among the group.

If I'm reading the movie right, we actually see some motivation for why this giant whale decides — which is I guess how you'd put it — to go after the ship. And, OK, I'll buy a certain level of intelligence from whales, you know, *Star Trek IV* and all that. But the way



In the Heart of the Sea

this movie presents it is kind of, oh, what's the fancy film-school word for this, stupid. In fact, there are a number of plot points in *In the Heart of the Sea* which feel, to put it bluntly, kind of stupid. The difficult relationship between Chase and Pollard is about as organic and earned as if one of the actors had just turned to camera and said "we're going to dislike each other for the first 70 percent or so of this movie, deal with it." The book-ending bit with Melville and Nickerson feels stacy in the extreme, as though I'm watching *Rushmore*'s Max Fischer put on a high school adaptation of the tale. Michelle Fairley (by all the old gods and the new, it's Catelyn Stark) shows up to play Mrs. Old Nickerson and is painfully underused. She's a more interesting character in her dozen lines than either of the doofuses providing us with the excuse for the narration. And then there's everything to do with the whale, which should be very man-versus-nature, very terror-of-the-unknown but instead just feels silly.

Which is too bad, because *In the Heart of the Sea*, when it doesn't feel ridiculous, is very pretty to look at and features interesting tidbits about whaling, early 19th-century life at sea and the place of whale oil in the economy and life of people at the time. Because Young Nickerson was a small teenager at the time he sailed on the *Essex*, he is the one sent in to the head of the whale to gather what, as I learned not from the movie but from Wikipedia later, was a more valuable

kind of whale oil called sperm oil, which has a different chemical composition from the blubbery whale oil. Fun fact! There were other little moments, about ship politics and ship duties and the life of a whaler, that I also found interesting. Huh, I remember thinking, if so much of this movie weren't so goofy, it might really be kind of fascinating. (Hemsworth, you ask? Yeah, this probably won't go on the highlights reel. Somehow, compared to this, Hemsworth's Thor feels like some kind of Richard Linklater *Boyhood*-style ultra-natural performance.)

In the Heart of the Sea has the look and score of an important historical epic; I even get the sense that maybe the movie's creators kind of believe they've made a sweeping saga, sort of *12 Years a Slave*-lite. But just as putting a sailor suit on a baby does not make him ready to work on the *USS Nimitz*, all the lovely cinematography and sprinkling of historical tidbits in the world can't give this movie the gravitas it so desperately seeks. C+

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action and peril, brief startling violence, and thematic material. Directed by Ron Howard with a screenplay by Charles Leavitt and story by Charles Leavitt and Rick Jaffa & Amanda Silver (from the book *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick), *In the Heart of the Sea* is two hours and 1 minute long and distributed by Warner Bros.

Spotlight (R)

Reporters unglamorously dig for their story in *Spotlight*, a movie based on the real-life investigation by the Boston Globe into the Catholic Church's history of covering up the sexual abuse of children by priests.

It's 2001 and the stories of predatory priests are bubbling around, getting some press coverage in Boston and elsewhere but the stories seem to concentrate on individual priests rather than the church as a whole. While a Boston Phoenix story puts forth the idea that Boston Cardinal Bernard Law (Liev Schreiber) knew about the priests and helped to hide their crimes, there hasn't yet been much coverage of the systemic problem nor has there been a smoking gun proving the wider problems in the church. (As the movie seems to explain it.) Pulling together pieces of the bigger story that include a current story about allegations against a specific priest, a lawyer who claims 80-some victims of a variety of priests and documents not yet made public that could prove Law knew about the priests, new Boston Globe editor Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber) tells editor Robby Robinson (Michael Keaton) and his *Spotlight* team — reporters Mike Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo), Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams) and Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy James) — to look into it. The *Spotlight* team is the paper's investigative unit, which is allowed to dig into stories first to see if there is anything there and then to spend the time needed to really develop the stories they decide to tackle.

At first, Robinson's direct boss, assistant managing editor Ben Bradlee (John Slattery), and even Robinson himself seem to approach the project with a "let's humor the new boss" mindset. But quickly, the reporters find out that the story is bigger than it appears. Though lawyer Mitchell Garabedian (Stanley Tucci) and victims' group leader Phil Saviano (Neal Huff) are both written off by others as being borderline crackpots, the reporters and Robinson come to believe their stories and realize that not just a handful of priests but maybe a dozen were shifted around parishes, leaving accusations of sex abuse in their wakes. The more they dig, the more the reporters realize that even that seemingly high number is a too-low estimate; it's probably more like 90 priests

AT THE MULTIPLEX

Coming soon

Dec. 18: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (PG-13) Anybody heard anything about this? ... The biggest movie in the history of the galaxy opens Thursday night so you might want to put on your Leia buns and grab your lightsaber to get in line now for J.J. Abrams' continuation of the saga; *Sis-*

ters (R) Amy Poehler and Tina Fey play siblings in the movie that is either very smart counter-programming or the other half of your double feature; *Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip* (PG) Because I have no say in what Hollywood does, another one of these things is hitting screens. All I can do is try to keep the

kids from ever finding out about it.

Reviewlets

* Movies worth seeing.

* ***Creed*** (PG-13)

Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone. The Rocky franchise gets reinvented with the arrival of Adonis, son of Apollo Creed.

The movie manages to hit a lot of the best bets of the Rocky saga and offers winning, realistic characters. **B+**

The Good Dinosaur (PG)

Voices of Jeffrey Wright, Frances McDormand. Even Pixar doesn't hit it out of the park every time, as evidenced by this luke-

warm tale of a dinosaur and his human friend. It hits way too many familiar cartoon beats and does nothing new or interesting with them. **B-**

Krampus (PG-13)

Toni Collette, Adam Scott. A boy's sadness at his family's Christmas quarrelling leads to the arrival of Krampus —

who is like Santa but evil and with a bunch of family-eating minions. **B-**

Love the Coopers (PG-13)

Diane Keaton, John Goodman. A few funny bits and the occasional touching performance do not make up for a lot of soggy family-at-Christmas clichés. **D+**

working in Boston, an expert tells them.

How the reporters begin to pinpoint the many suspect priests is an excellent example of the slow-motion unraveling of information involved in a story like this. At one point, several of the reporters pore over directories that list Boston priests' assignments each year. The reporters come to realize that records showing repeated patterns of a priest in a parish for a year or two and then listed as being sick or on leave are a sign that allegations against that priest have probably been made. Using pens and pencils and a spreadsheet program, the reporters start to make lists of priests who may have committed crimes. It is slow going, and a particularly wonderful detail of that part of the information gathering is that the reporters first realize the pattern while looking at old directories stored in a dark basement with a horrible smell, which comes, as one of the reporters nonchalantly points out, from a dead rat in the corner. It is classic old-school newspapering that parts of the building are sketchy and have some disgusting but fixable problem that everybody is too focused on something else to fix.

In this and so many other things, *Spotlight* really does get newspaper reporting right, giving a very unHollywood portrayal of people making unreturned phone calls, visiting uncooperative potential sources, sifting through documents and checking and double-checking small details. In a lot of ways, the newspaper world shown here really is the daily newspaper world as I remember it from 2001, to include the weeks where the reporters have to drop what they're working on to take part in 9/11 coverage. In addition to giving newspaper people like me a nostalgic thrill and painting a pretty accurate picture of how investigative journalism works, *Spotlight* shows how crazy expensive this kind of news coverage is. This is not your first-person comment about a Tweet that the Internet produces hourly by the barrel-full. The three reporters and one editor are basically paid not to write — they are by design supposed to report for weeks or even months to produce one big story or a series of stories. Then there's the newspaper library staff — yes, that was a real thing — producing folders full of background clips. Then there are the other editors following the progress of the story and the lawyers the paper hires to get certain damning documents made public. It's like a restaurant hiring a chef, baker and sommelier full-time to produce one really excellent meal every four months. This was a luxury for newspapers even back then. This movie often feels like — in the best possible way — journalism propaganda. This, the movie seems to say, is the case for high-quality, high-cost journalism. And for a competitive journalism environment — other newspapers and their potential for getting in on the story (and, as the reporters say, screwing it

up to the full story will never be told or believed) help to provide the ticking clock that ramps up the tension just a bit.

OK, but not everybody is a newspaper geek. *Spotlight* is still a really solid story about everyday people doing their jobs really well — with *The Martian* this seems to be the year of that at the movies. We're watching people chip away at something big but the story is able to show us process and frustration without feeling draggy or mired in minutia. And the cast helps to keep the drama alive, even when we're, like, waiting for a government office to open so someone can copy some files.

This makes two really solid newspaper movies for Michael Keaton (the other is *The Paper* from 1994; it's a peppier affair but it is still one of my all-time favorite newspaper movies). As the investigation wears on, his character has to deal with all sorts of pressures — the local entrenchment of the church, the warnings from friends to stay away from the story, the internal politics of the paper, the push from reporters to publish before another paper beats them to it. He does a good job of showing the complexity of the situation for an editor in his position; he isn't Batman, he can't just plunge in and get the bad guys without making sure he's doing it right.

Rachel McAdams, Brian d'Arcy James and Mark Ruffalo likewise all do a good job of showing the way a big story like this can work on the reporters working the story. Each character responds in different ways with different emotions — Sacha and Mike find that the story affects their own relationship to the church, of which they are sort of lapsed members. Mark, meanwhile, finding out that some of the offenders might live close to his home, becomes concerned that a delay in publishing could put his kids and his neighbors' kids in danger.

Mike Rezendes is a particularly fun newspaper character. We see how a single-minded, never-take-no approach to reporting can lead to results but also a less-than-ideal personal life. There are times when Ruffalo piles on a kind of anxious twitchiness a little too thick; I think 80 percent would have gotten the point across and perhaps seemed a little more human and less character. But the role still works, still gives an intensity to what's happening on screen.

Ruffalo and even more surprisingly Keaton didn't get Golden Globe nominations, but the movie itself, director Tom McCarthy and the screenplay by Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy have received much-deserved nominations. *Spotlight* is definitely one of prestige movie season's must-sees. **A**

Rated R for some language including sexual references. Directed by Tom McCarthy and written by Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy, Spotlight is two hours and 8 minutes long and distributed by Open Road.



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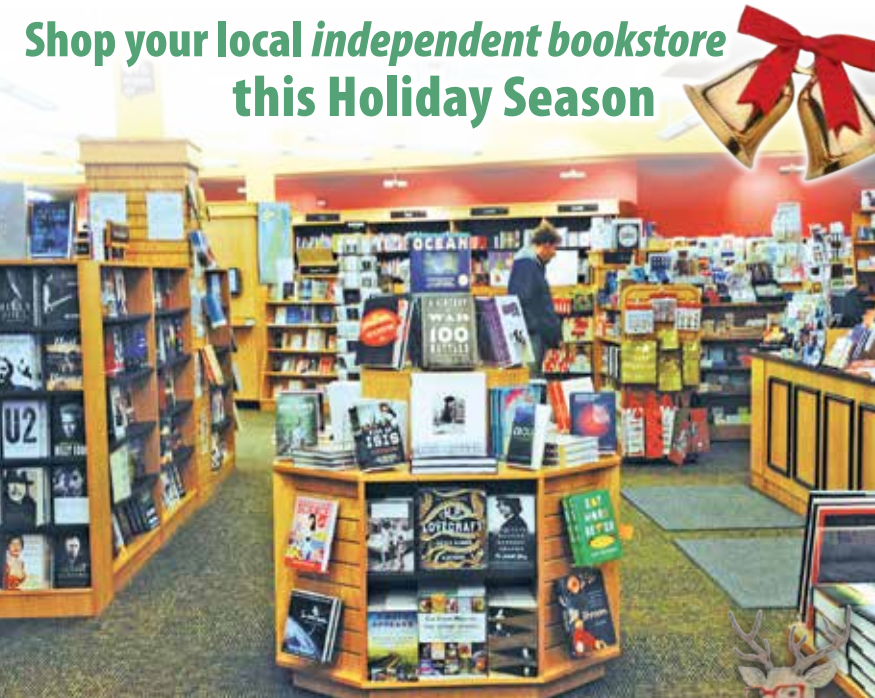
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MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org

• **Portraits of Professional Caregivers** (NR, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 17, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:15 p.m.

• **Spotlight** (R, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 17, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 18, at 12:30, 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 12:30, 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 12:30, 3:15 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 21, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 22, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 23, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 24, at 2 p.m.

• **Brooklyn** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 17, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 18, at 1:10, 3:40, 6:25 & 8:55 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 1:10, 3:40, 6:25 & 8:55 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 1:10, 3:40 & 6:25 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 21, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 22, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 23, at 2:05 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 24, at 2:05 p.m.

• **The Assassin** (NR, 2015) Fri., Dec. 18, at 1:45, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 1:45, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 1:45 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 21, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:30 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 22, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:30 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 23, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:30 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 24, at 2:10 p.m.

• **Crime Wave** (NR, 1954) Sun., Dec. 20, at 4 p.m.
• **White Christmas** (NR, 1954) Wed., Dec. 23, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

40 Main St., Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com

• **Sicario** (R, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

• **Room** (R, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 17, through Sat., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 21, through Wed., Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

• **Brooklyn** (PG, 2015) Fri., Dec. 18, through Sat., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 21 through Wed., Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

• **Jane Eyre** (Broadcast presentation) Tues., Jan. 5, at 6 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us

• **Elf** (PG, 2003) Fri., Dec. 18, at 3 p.m.

• **White Christmas** (NR, 1954) Wed., Dec. 23, at 1 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-2300, bedfordnhlibrary.org

• **Bedford Parks and Recreation Adult & Senior Movie Matinee** Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m.

• **School holiday movie for kids** Tues., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.

• **Coffee & Classics Movie** Mon., Jan. 4, 9:30-11:45 a.m.

DERRY OPERA HOUSE

29 W. Broadway, Derry, derryoperahouse.com

• **Polar Express** (G, 2004) Sat., Dec. 19, at noon

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4611, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for a movie schedule. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted. Cinema Cabaret screens adult films on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the family film series screens on Saturdays at 2 p.m.

• **Rise of the Guardians** (PG, 2012) Sat., Dec. 19, at 2 p.m.
• **Pan** (PG, 2015) Tues., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.
• **Wreck-It-Ralph** (PG, 2012) Sat., Dec. 26, at 2 p.m.

• **Aviation Museum of New Hampshire**
27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org
• **The McConnell Story** Sat., Jan. 9, at 11 a.m.

RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

194 Derry Road, Route 102, Hudson, rogerslibrary.org. 886-6030

• **Cinema Celebration** second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherstlibrary.org

• **Movie Matinee** Tues., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org.

Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth

• **A Ballerina's Tale** (documentary, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

• **Heart of a Dog** (documentary, 2015) Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

• **Citizen Kane** (1941) Tues., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

• **It's a Wonderful Life** (1946) Wed., Dec. 23, at 3 p.m.

• **The Walk** (PG, 2015) Sun., Dec. 27, at 3 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 29, at 7 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.

• **Short Film Night** Sat., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.

ROCHESTER OPERA HOUSE

31 Wakefield St., Rochester, rochesteroperahouse.com, 332-2211, 335-1992

• **Short Film Night** Sat., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.

3S ARTSPACE

319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, 3sarts.org

• **Portsmouth Short Film Night** Sun., Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

THE FLYING MONKEY

39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com

• **It's a Wonderful Life** (1946) Sat., Dec. 19, at 4 p.m.

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Elvish fun:** A mix of music and comedy, the **5th Annual Buzz Ball** is a great way to rock the holiday. Jimmy Dunn, Juston McKinney, Kelly MacFarland and Tony V tell jokes, while Mike Girard's Big Swing- ing Thing, Jon Butcher, Adam Ezra, Deric Dyer, Alli Beaudry, Ed Gerhard and Red Sky Mary sing and play, with help from the star-studded Velvet Elves house band, Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets \$30 and \$40 at ccanh.com.

• **Yule jam:** With the closing of Whipper- snappers, **John Paul's Christmas All-Star Show** moves to Merrimack to celebrate its 15th year. The local showcase includes sax man Dave Ayotte, drummer Joe Rizzo, bass player Dave Buda and talented keyboard player Jiri Nedoma supporting the singer, songwriter and guitarist for an evening of holiday-based rock Friday, Dec. 18, at 8:30 p.m., at Jade Dragon Restaurant, 515 Route 3 (Commons Plaza), Merrimack. See on.fb.me/1QEsrt.

• **Funk time:** Parliament-Funkadelic off- shoot **Danny Bedrosian & Secret Army** performs in downtown Manchester. Key- board player Bedrosian led the 18-piece Super Motha Child as a teenager before join- ing P-Funk. Secret Army is a three-piece, focused on tighter grooves. Friday, Dec. 18, at 9 p.m. at Penuche's Grille, 96 Hanover St., Manchester (\$10, 21+). See dannybed- rosian.com.

• **Dynamic duo:** Rapper Adeem recruit- ed Charlie Chronopoulos to form **Brave Son** and give live voice to *Move Towards Life*, an album finished in the wake of his moth- er's death in a car crash last year. The record became a moving tribute, including snip- ets of audio recovered from his mom's cell phone and recordings of her singing to her granddaughter, Adeem's daughter. Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at Union Coffee Company, 42 South St., Milford, unioncoffee.co.

• **Jolly good:** The second annual holi- day show from **Brad Myrick** puts a jazzy spin on traditional carols and songs. Last year's event was by all accounts a memo- rable party, and the ubiquitous guitarist will probably have some special guests joining him for this show. Myrick recently returned from a two-month run of shows in Italy, so it should be an inspired evening of Christ- mas music. Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m. at The Local, 2 E. Main St., Warner. See facebook.com/TheLocalWarner.

Want more ideas for a fun night out? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and online at hipposcout.com.

NITE Holiday Horse

Christmas show spotlights studio's best

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

For Brian Coombes, the Rocking Horse Christmas concert is an ex post facto gift list, a counting of the year's musical bounty. Artists who recorded at his Pittsfield studio throughout the year gather for a super ses- sion of holiday songs. It began in 2013 as a television special and is now in its second year at Spotlight Cafe, Concord's Capitol Center for the Arts' lobby nightclub.

A steadily growing lineup for the Satur- day, Dec. 19, show includes Greg Hawkes of The Cars, *American Idol* short lister Alex Preston, Pat & the Hats, Tristan Omand, Delanie Pickering and Chris Peters. Also appearing is Coombes' latest find, singer- songwriter Anna Madsen. The Utah native will perform a favorite carol, "O Emman- uel," then segue into the winter-themed "Golden Room," a recently completed original song.

Along with Brittany Gochez and Hannah Rose of Pat & the Hats, Madsen will pro- vide a Hallelujah Chorus for Meg Josalen on "Christmas Star," a tune she wrote spe- cifically for the concert.

Though it's barely been out for two months, Madsen's dreamy EP *Palm Reader* is already in a few annual Top 10 lists — including the producer's.

"It's fair to say that she's a favorite," Coombes said recently, joined by Mad- sen for a FaceTime interview. Among the record's guest musicians are Jordan Tirrell- Wysocki, Patrick Gochez, Bobby Rice and Joey Pierog.

The musical simpatico between the pair

Rocking Horse Christmas

When: Saturday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m.

Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord

Tickets: \$20 at ccanh.com

Nite Life Music, Comedy & Parties

• **HARVEY REID XMAS CON- CERT** at Flying Goose (40 Andover Road, New London 526-6899) on Thursday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Master of many instruments and styles of acous- tic music, from hip folk to slashing slide guitar blues to bluegrass, old- time, Celtic, ragtime, and even clas- sical.

• **CHRISTMAS REVELS: A SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS CELE- BRATION OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE** at Hopkins Center (2 E. Wheelock St., Hanover 646-2422) on Thursday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m. \$8-\$44

- The magical Celtic tale of Tam Lin is woven throughout this merry show of Scottish singing, dancing and pag- eantry. More than 75 talented local per- formers of all ages are joined by some of New England's finest musicians.

• **HARVEY REID & JOYCE ANDERSON** at First Parish Church (120 Central Ave, Dover 207-363- 1886) on Friday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15 - 7th Annual Holiday concert! Seacoast acoustic music luminaries intertwine their voices with Reid's gui- tars, autoharp and mandolins & Ander- sen's violin & viola for an evening of warm & brilliant Holiday music in this historic church. Watch out for some

performances from their boys.

• **ED GERHARD** at UU Church (292 State St., Portsmouth 664-7200) on Friday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. \$30 - Renowned guitarist performs soulful arrangements of well-loved carols, as well as his own concert favorites. Fans of guitar music and Christmas alike will want to be a part of this memo- rable show, now in its 33rd year. Also December 19.

• **COMMUNITY COFFEEHOUSE** at Grange Hall (State Route 11 & Chase Hill Road, East Andover 735- 5135) on Friday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Fea- turing Lowe Profiles - Original and traditional songs of winter celebration,



Courtesy photo.

stands out on the record. Madsen's soar- ing, majestic vocals are given just the right amount of texture by Coombes, with touch- es of mellotron, omnichord, therevox, taurus pedal and other electronic gizmos included throughout. Rick Black, an old band mate of the producer, played a key role.

"He played a lot of the complicated stuff, like the harpsichord and the celeste, which we call the Harry Potter machine," Coombes said, adding, "but a lot of it comes down to Anna's vision for the tunes."

Madsen is a brilliant song crafter, and *Palm Reader* is bathed in an ethereal glow. It's the sort of record that will please fans of Enya or Sarah McLachlan.

"I like to work in themes," she said. "I love to tell stories and fairy tales, so it had that mystical flavor. ... I kind of did that on purpose."

Growing up in the Mormon faith helped fuel Madsen's musical inspiration.

"There are some really beautiful pio- neer hymns I grew up with that I think have influenced a lot of my music," she said. "Church music aside, I really love The Civil Wars and am a huge fan of Enya and more contemporary artists like Lana Del Ray — she is one of my favorites. I kind of like everything, though. I love the classi- cal contemporary composers such as Hans Zimmer. ... It's hard to pick and choose."

A video for the title track will be released Dec. 20.

"It's set in the 1700s; it's a love story but kind of has this Salem *Witch Hunter* vibe to it," Madsen said, then demurred in her description of the clip. "You'll have to wait for it!"

Madsen recently recorded a duet with Alex Preston. "I Would Save You" is a Coombes/Patrick Gochez cowrite com- missioned for the upcoming film *Granite Orpheus*. Coombes feels the song of empowerment suits her well.

"There is a moment where Anna really hits a high note — I call that the Disney moment, and it really allowed Anna to step outside herself and be a diva at that moment," he said. "She harmonizes with Al in the choruses, and that sounds like the ethereal Anna that I really enjoy, but on the bridge it really gave her a chance to belt."

Following the ensemble show in Con- cord, Madsen and Coombes plan a series of shows to promote *Palm Reader* in 2016. On Feb. 13, she'll appear as part of a New Hampshire music showcase at Olympia's Zorba Music Hall in Lowell, Mass. The show is called *South of the Border*.

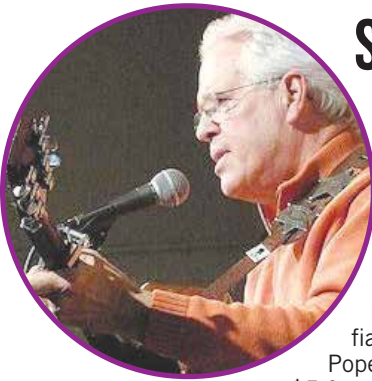
On Feb. 20, she'll return to Concord for a concert with Pat & the Hats.

"There will be a third act to be announced," said Coombes. "It will be something that is mutually cross-pollinat- ed ... with Pat perhaps singing a version of 'I Would Save You,' and I know that I will probably be sitting in." 🍷

but with a vaudeville twist, is the Third Friday theme.

• **COUNTRY NIGHT** at Rocking- ham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket 659-4410) on Friday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. \$10 at the door, 7-7:30 line dance lesson with Gail Eaton; full cash bar and snacks available, country music dancing at this ballroom dan- cing hub.

• **NEW HORIZONS BAND HOLI- DAY CONCERT** at Portsmouth Pub- lic Library (175 Parrott Ave., Ports- mouth 431-4278) on Friday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Portsmouth Music and Arts Center ensemble band performs holi- day songs.



SING OUT

Third Thursday Open Mic Night happens Thursday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. at Simple Gifts Coffee House (58 Lowell St., Nashua - simplegiftscoffeeshouse.org). Host Bob Pope sings and plays folk, bluegrass, and flamenco style acoustic guitar. Bob has been playing guitar for over 50 years and is currently a member of three bands: Monadnock Bluegrass, Folk River Run, and the Pine Hill Boys. His fiancé Lisa Greenleaf and/or his daughter Curran Pope-Konner often accompany him. Admission is \$5 for all, including musicians.

• **PERMANENT VACATION** at American Legion Post 2 (251 Maple St., Manchester 623-9145) on Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Began over a couple of beers, similar tastes in music and coincidentally, a desire to start up a "midlife crisis" garage band! A laugh, a brew and a dare turned into reality.

• **CHRISTMAS BALL** at Rockingham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket 659-4410) on Saturday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m. \$50/person Ballroom dancing with music by The Dave Burbank Orchestra - tickets must be purchased by Dec. 12.

• **PATRICIA O'BRIEN** at Spire-side Coffee House (6 Stark Highway North, Dunbarton 744-4601) on Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation - sing-

er / songwriter who plays guitar, banjo, and tin whistle - combines the sounds of Irish traditional and American folk music.. Doors & Open Mic signups at 7.

• **PMAC JAZZ ENSEMBLES SHOW** at 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth 766-3330) on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2 p.m. \$5 - featuring the Saturday Teen Jazz Ensemble, the Jazz Pioneers and the Jazz Adventurers Combos and the Jazz Guitar Ensemble - tunes by John Coltrane, Joshua Redman, Horace Silver and more

• **DELICATE STEVE W/ NAT BALDWIN** at 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth 766-3330) on Saturday, Dec. 19, 9 p.m. \$13 - "a kaleidoscope of bouncy pan-African poly-rhythms and swooping six-string

melodies, like the Dirty Projectors with guitars instead of singers."

• **TRUE LIGHT FESTIVAL** at Rockingham Church (Sweethill & Newton Roads, Plaistow) on Saturday, Dec. 19, 5 p.m. Experience the joy of Christmas through lights, music, and fun activities. Live nativity, costumed carolers, hay rides and music from Black Diamond and a bell choir (indoors).

• **ROCKIN' DADDIOS** at Concord Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord 228-2793) on Sunday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m. New Hampshire's favorite doo-wop group headlines the Friends of The Concord City Auditorium's 25th annual Holiday Open House with community True Pot Luck Supper and the famous Audi Punch.

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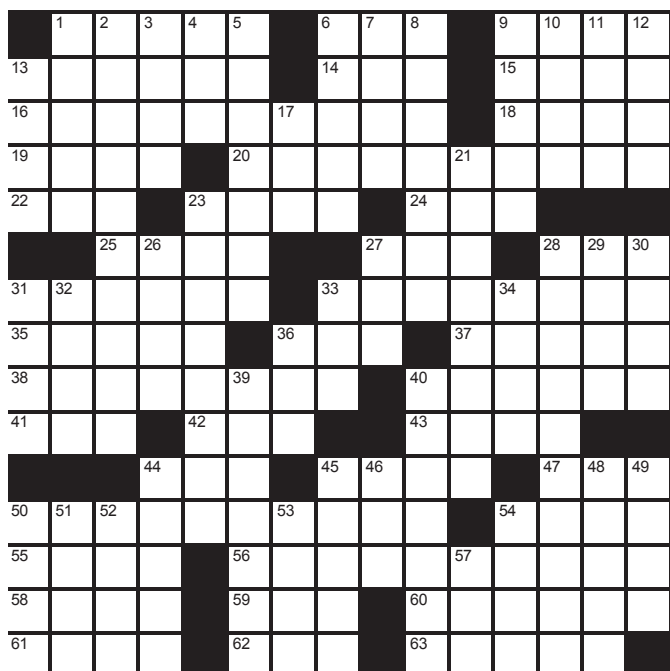


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That An(n)a gets around

Across

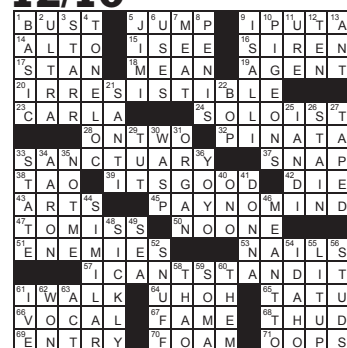
1. 80s band ___ Sound Machine
6. "Take on me, take me on. I'll be gone" band (hyph)
9. Starving rockers don't have them to piss in
13. 'Barely Breathing' Sheik
14. Came in first in battle of bands
15. ___ A Spell On You (1,3)
16. Hint about new album
18. Norwegian popster Maria
19. 'Monkey Business' ___ Row
20. '91 Huey Lewis 'Couple Days Off' album (4,2,4)
22. 'Can't Wait One Minute More' band
23. Green Day "I ___ you had the time



of your life"

24. Police "I'll send an ___ to the world"
25. Musical hero
27. Small Faces '___ In The Oven'
28. Buddy Guy drinks it 'Sweet'
31. Sleater-Kinney 'All Hands On The ___' (3,3)
33. Neil Diamond '___ Livingston Seagull'
35. "Busted flat in Baton ___"
36. 'We Are Young' band
37. Green Day '___ Rebel' (4,1)
38. Silverchair '___ (Open Fire)' (4,4)
40. Not b-sides (hyph)
41. 'Runaway' singer Shannon
42. 'King' Steve Martin sang about
43. Cranial rock image
44. 'Breezeblocks' ___-J

12/10



45. 80s 'Heart And Soul' Brits

47. 'Maestro' singer Mahal

50. Oft-used title of pre-fame album (5,5)

54. Guided By Voices '___ Scientist' (1,2,1)

55. 'Addicted' band Saving ___

56. Local band rival

58. 'Live Until I Die' Walker

59. Ultravox leader Midge

60. '03 Ani DiFranco album that will develop?

61. Bad Company '___ Comes Trouble'

62. 'Ágætis byrjun' band Sigur ___

63. Like crowd during sold out concert

Down

1. '98 Jesus & Mary Chain album

2. Bad Religion song about a lone wolf?

3. John Lennon's "trip" fuel

4. 'Baby Don't Get Hooked On Me' Davis

5. Alice In Chains 'Down ___' (2,1,4)

6. Counting Crows 'Across ___': Live In New York City' (1,4)

7. 'Harry', to Phish

8. Walk The Moon "This house is falling apart" song (4,3)

9. 'Spin Spin Sugar' Sneaker ___

10. Inventor of spouge music Jackie

11. Jack Casady band Hot ___

12. 311 'Don't ___ Home'

13. "D" in CD

17. Michael McKean band Spinal ___

21. '02 live Grateful Dead album 'Go ___' (2,6)

23. '03 Zwan hit

26. Pink Floyd-inspired Page France song?

27. 'For Emma, Forever Ago' ___ Iver

28. Offspring 'Spare Me ___' (3,7)

29. What The Wiz will do 'On Down The Road'

30. Silverchair '___ Song (Open Fire)'

31. Crash Test Dummies singer Roberts

32. Springsteen "If you've ever seen ___ trick pony then you've seen me" (1,3)

33. Blow into an empty one on the bayou

34. 'The Boys Are Back In Town' ___ Lizzy

36. Semisonic's "Fascinating new thing" (abbr)

39. Oasis '08 album 'Dig ___ Soul' (3,4)

40. Collected44. O Come ___ Faithful (3,2)

45. Audio cassettes46. Experienced48. Young MC 'Bust ___' (1,4)

49. She 'Says' it to Jane's Addiction

50. "We've got to carry ___ other" U251. Up to the task

52. Where Elvis left the building?

53. '05 Beck smash (hyph)

54. T. Rex 'Bang A Gong (Get ___)' (2,2)

57. Led Zep 'Since ___ Been Loving You'

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Shorty's
206 Rte 101 488-5706

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino
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267-7778
Shooters Tavern
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Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8508

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2 Central St. 744-0405
Purple Pit
28 Central Sq. 744-7800
Rumor Mill
50 S Main St, 217-0971

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Barley House
132 N. Main 228-6363
CC Tomatoes
209 Fisherville Rd
753-4450
Cheers
17 Depot St. 228-0180
Granite
96 Pleasant St. 227-9000

Hermanos
11 Hills Ave. 224-5669
Makris
354 Sheep Davis Road
225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St. 228-9833
Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Road
226-0533
Red Blazer
72 Manchester St.
224-4101
Tandy's Top Shelf
1 Eagle Sq. 856-7614
True Brew Barista
3 Bicentennial Sq.
225-2776

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Covered Bridge
Cedar St. 746-5191
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896 Main St.
746-3018

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Nine Lions Tavern
4 North Rd 463-7374

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216-2713
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42 Third St. 742-9816
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11 Fourth St. 343-4390
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2 Orchard St. 749-3838

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617-3633
Sonny's Tavern
83 Washington St.
742-4226
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1 Orchard St. 740-0006

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Pasta Loft
220 E. Main St. 378-0092
Epping
Holy Grail
64 Main St. 679-9559
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235 Calef Hwy 679-8225
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734-2725
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73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050
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967-4884

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926-8322
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379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122
Savory Square Bistro
32 Depot Sq 926-2202
Sea Ketch
127 Ocean Blvd. 926-0324
Stacy Jane's
9 Ocean Blvd. 929-9005
The Goat
20 L St. 601-6928
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366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave.
366-2665
Patio Garden
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman's Freight Room
94 New Salem St.
527-0043
Tower Hill Tavern
264 Lakeside Ave.
366-9100
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St. 366-2255

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Londonderry
Coach Stop Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd
437-2022
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432-3210
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Commercial St.
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Breezeway Pub
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594 Daniel Webster
Hwy 262-1693

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Lefty's Lanes
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| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Thursday, Dec. 17 Bedford Copper Door: Bob Rutherford Boscawen Alan's: John Pratt in Lounge Concord Granite: CJ Poole & The Sophisticated Approach Hermanos: Richard Gardzina Penuche's Ale House: Mindseye Derry Drae: Alan Roux Dover 7th Settlement: Taylor O'Donnell Cara: Bluegrass w/ Steve Roy Fury's: Erin's Guild Epping Holy Grail: Chuck and John Telly's: MB Padfield | Exeter Station 19: Thursday Night Live - O Will Phoenix Gilford Patrick's: Paul Warnick Hampton Savory Square: Peter Higgins Hanover Canoe Club: Gillian Joy Salt hill Pub: Irish Trad' Session Randy Miller/Roger Kahle Hillsborough Turismo: Line Dancing, DJ Cowboy Laconia Pitman's: Heather Pierson (Charlie Brown Xmas) Lebanon Salt hill Pub: Celtic Open Session | Londonderry Coach Stop: Marc Apostolides Manchester Central Ale House: Jonny Friday Blues City Sports Grille: DJ Dave Fratello's: Jazz Night Funktion: Chad Verbeck Karma: DJ Midas, SP1 & Reed Milly's: Lakes Region Big Band Penuche's: Red Sky Mary Portland Pie: Acoustic Series Shaskeen: Color Collective Shorty's: Kieran McNally Strange Brew: Bruce Marshall Whiskey's 20: DJs Shawn White/Ryan Nichols/Mike Mazz Wild Rover: Unda Radar Merrimack Homestead: Ted Solovicos Milford Aden China: DJ Brian |
|--|---|--|

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Chapanga's: Joe McDonald
Pasta Loft: Russell Hill Band
 (Toys for Tots)
Union Coffee: Phileep & Will
 Kindler

Nashua

Arena: College Night with DJ
 Hizzy
Country Tavern: Jeff Mrozek
Fratello's Italian Grille: Ryan
 Williamson
Portland Pie: Acoustic Series
Riverwalk Cafe: Bees Deluxe
Shorty's: Brad Bosse

Newmarket

Stone Church: Irish Music w/
 Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki & Jim
 Prendergast

Peterborough

Harlow's: Bluegrass Night

Plaistow

Racks: Blues Jam w/ Steve
 Devine

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Digney Fig-
 nus
Fat Belly's: DJ Flex
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Read
 Free or Die
Press Room: DuPont Brothers
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Ri Ra: Alex Raven Trio/The
 Deviant
Rudi's: John Funkhouser & Rob
 Gerry
Thirsty Moose: Dana Brearley
 & James Folan

Weare

Stark House: Lisa Guyer Solo
Windham
Common Man: Kim Riley

Friday, Dec. 18

Bedford

Shorty's: Brad Bosse/Paul
 Costley

Belmont

Lakes Region Casino: DJ Russ

Boscawen

Alan's: City of Dayle (Ugly
 Sweater Xmas Party)

Claremont

New Socials: Sirsy

Concord

Makris: Scott "Snake" Miller &
 the Hell Jacks
Pit Road Lounge: Day Janeiro

Red Blazer: Randy Arrant
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
True Brew: Rory Scott/Matt
 Jensen

Contoocook

Covered Bridge: Don
 Bartenstein

Derry

Drac: Relative Melody

Dover

Cara: Club Night w/ DJ
 Shawunny O
Dover Brickhouse: Ghosts of
 Jupiter, Patchen & Roberts
Fury's PubliC House: Flux
 Capacitor
Top of the Chop: Funkadelic
 Fridays

Epping

Holy Grail: Karen Grenier
Telly's: Annual Christmas Party
 (DJ Bill Pyndo)

Gilford

Patrick's: John Anthony

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Gardner Berry

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Beneath the
 Sheets

Hanover

Salt Hill Pub: Arthur James

Hillsborough

Turismo: The Sustainibillies
 featuring Ross Arnold

Laconia

Pitman's Freight Room: James
 Montgomery/Barry Goudreau
Lebanon
Salt Hill Pub: Club Soda

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Rick Watson

Manchester

City Sports Grille: DJ Dave
Derryfield: Radio Daze
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh
ManchVegas: Shana Stack
 Band
Murphy's Taproom: Mugsy
N'awlins: BrickYard Blues
Penuche's: Danny Bedrosian &
 Secret Army
Queen's Pub: Express Revival
Shaskeen: Cornerstone
Strange Brew: Gravel Project
Tin Roof: Fridays With Frydae

Whiskey's 20: DJs Jason
 Spivak & Sammy Smoove
Wild Rover: John Ridlon Duo

Merrimack

Homestead: Marc Apostolides
Jade Dragon: John Paul's
 Christmas All-Star Show

Milford

Aden China: DJ Brian
Pasta Loft: Walkin The Line

Nashua

Country Tavern: Brian Kellett
Dolly Shakers: RiverCity
 WillCo
Fody's: Ghost Cats
Fratello's: Steve Tolley
Haluwa: Rock City
O'Shea's: Olde Salt
Peddler's Daughter: Take 4
Riverwalk Cafe: Truffle
Stella Blu: Brittannica Duet

New Boston

Molly's: 21st and 1st

Newbury

Salt Hill Pub: Turner Round

Newmarket

Stone Church: Crushed Out
 with the Trichomes/Liz Frame
 and the Kickers

Newport

Salt Hill Pub: Jim Hollis

Peterborough

Harlow's: Hug The Dog

Plaistow

Crow's Nest: Jarvis' Ugly
 Sweater Party

Portsmouth

Demeters: Sharon Jones
Dolphin Striker: Michael Troy
Fat Belly's: DJ Cootz
Martingale: The Fischer Kings
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Todo
 Bien
Portsmouth Gaslight: Dustin
 Ladale/MB Padfield
Press Room: Upstairs Dance
 Party ft. Rough Draft (10:30p)
Red Door: Jan Merwin
Ri Ra: Jamsterdam
Rudi's: Duke & John Hunter
Thirsty Moose: Fighting Friday

Rochester

Radloff's: Dancing Madly
 Backwards Duo
Smokey's Tavern: Matt
 Langley



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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 17 Portsmouth

Birdseye: Matt Donaher

Saturday, Dec. 19 Manchester

Envy Sports Club:
 Paul Landwehr/Joe
 Mitchell (Toys for Tots)

Saturday, Dec. 19 Manchester

Headliners: Mike
 Koutrobis

Monday, Dec. 21 Concord

Penuche's: Punchlines

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Derry

Hilltop Sports Pub:
 Comedy on Purpose -
 Alana Susko

Wednesday, Dec. 23 Manchester

Murphy's Taproom:

Laugh Free Or Die
 Open Mic
Shaskeen: Joe List/
 Kath Barbadoro

Nashua

Arena: Comedy on
 Purpose - Alana Susko

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1998 BMW 3, VIN # WBABF7321WEH41637
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2000 Honda Accord, Vin # JHMCG6697YC018487
1995 Toyota Camry, Vin # JT2SK12E4S0275139
2004 Nissan Quest, Vin # 5N1BV28U84N322919

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with any questions.

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Seabrook

Chop Shop: Stomping Melvin

Weare

Stark House: Brad Myrick

Saturday, Dec. 19

Bedford

Shorty's: Lisa Guyer

Belmont

Lakes Region Casino:
Fuzzbox/Ugly Sweater Contest

Concord

Hermanos: Kenny Weiland
Penuche's Ale House: Cole
Robbie
Pit Road Lounge: Stray Dog
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
(105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Kid Pinky

Dover

Cara: Club Night w/ DJ
Shawwny O
Dover Brickhouse: Psychic
Wounds/Zud/Mome
Fury's Publike House: Outer
Stylee

Epping

Holy Grail: Matt Gelanis
Telly's: Rick Watson
Tortilla Flat: Chris Cavanaugh

Gilford

Patrick's: Holly Furlone

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Bob Pratte
Band

Hampton

Savory Square: Kim Riley
Wally's Pub: Bailout

Hanover

Canoe Club: The Party Crash-
ers
Salt Hill Pub: About Gladys

Hillsborough

Turismo: 80's Night

Hooksett

Asian Breeze: Off Duty Angels

Laconia

Pitman's Freight Room: Clay
Cook

Lebanon

Salt Hill Pub: Will Michaels

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Jeff Mrozek

Manchester

City Sports Grille: Nicole
Knox Murphy
Derryfield: Monkeys With
Hammers
Fratello's: Steve Tolley

Kim Riley

ManchVegas: Last Kid Picked
Midnight Rodeo: Haywire
Murphy's Taproom: Best Not
Broken
N'awlins: Big Easy Quartet
Queen's Pub: The Clones
Shaskeen: Cat and the Moon
Strange Brew: Jack Grace
Whiskey's 20: DJ Hizzy/Shawn
White
Wild Rover: D-Comp Duo

Merrimack

Homestead: Marc Apostolides

Milford

Aden China: DJ Brian
Chapanga's: Fatha Groove
J's Tavern: Roxanne & the Voo-
doo Rockers
Pasta Loft: Jodie Cunningham
Union Coffee: Brave Son
(Charlie Chronopolos)

Nashua

Boston Billiard Club: DJ
Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Joe McDon-
ald
Fody's: Soul Income
Fratello's Italian Grille: Brad
Bosse
Haluwa: Rock City
Peddler's Daughter: Beneath
the Sheets
Riverwalk Cafe: Truffle
Stella Blu: Clint LaPointe

Newbury

Salt Hill Pub Sunapee: Mark
and Deb Bond

Newmarket

Stone Church: Yelloyuth, Pan-
gea Pop, Heavy Pockets and
Teratoma

Newport

Salt Hill Pub Newport: Please
Don't Tell

Peterborough

Harlow's: Duncan Pettetier

Portsmouth

Birdseye Lounge: Jalopy
Blue Mermaid: Old Saw
Demeters: Chris O'Neill & Gina
Alibrio
Dolphin Striker: Brick Yard
Blues
Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
Hilton Garden: Joel Cage
Martingale Wharf: Jimmy &
Marcelle
Portsmouth Book & Bar: The
Joshua Incident
Portsmouth Gaslight: Kevin
Burt/RC Thomas
Press Room: Danny Mayer Trio
Red Door: That John Arnold/
Gary Kim

Ri Ra: Red Sky Mary

Rudi's: Jarrod Steer
Thirsty Moose: Groovin' You
White Heron: Holly Furlone

Raymond

Cork n Keg: Studio Two (Bea-
tles Tribute)

Rochester

Smokey's Tavern: Tom Emer-
son

Salem

Barking Bean: Dave LaCroix

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Inner Child

Weare

Stark House Tavern: Erik Ray

Sunday, Dec. 20

Bedford

Copper Door: Marc
Apostolides

Concord

Hermanos: Eric Chase

Dover

Cara: Irish Session w/ Carol
Coronis & Ramona Connelly
Sonny's: Sonny's Jazz

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Blues Jam

Hanover

Canoe Club: Sam Weinburger

Hillsborough

Mama McDonough's: Brad
Bosse
Tooky Mills: Scott "Snake"
Miller and the Helljacks

Manchester

Central Ale House: Ugly
Sweater Night
Funktion: Alli Beaudry
Queen's Pub: Rumor Has It
Shaskeen: Diamond Edge (2p)
Rap & Industry night
Strange Brew: One Big Soul -
Sit Session

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Open Stage with
Lou Porrazzo

Milford

Union Coffee: Andrew Galucki

Nashua

Burton's Grill: Aaron Chase
Thirsty Turtle: Rob Benton

Newmarket

Stone Church: Funky Divas of
Gospel

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about
your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the
information to music@hippopress.com. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the
event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Don Severance
Red Door: Strange Strings
 Showcase w/Leash/Born Under
 A Bad Sign/Kaltenbrunner

Rochester
Radloff's: James McGarvey

Monday, Dec. 21
Concord
Hermanos: Eric Chase

Hanover
Canoe Club: Marko the Magician

Manchester
Central Ale: Jonny Friday Duo
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe or Phil Jacques
Shaskeen: Alli Beaudry (Old Sol Kickoff)

Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Nashua
Dolly Shakers: Monday's Muse
 w/ Lisa Guyer & Jim Devlin

Newmarket
Stone Church: Blues Jam w/ Wild Eagles Blues Band

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Old School
Press Room: Mike Stockbridge
Red Door: Hush Hush Sweet Harlot w/Michael Tarbox & Wes Covery
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

NITE CONCERTS

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, ledlycenter.org

- **Buzz Ball** Thursday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Cap Center
- **James McMurtry** Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Manhattan Transfer** Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Flying Monkey
- **Eric Hutchinson** Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Tupelo
- **Rocking Horse Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Cap
- **Kenny Rogers Christmas and Hits** Sunday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. Cap Center
- **Portsmouth Symphony Holiday Pops** Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. Music Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 22
Concord
Hermanos: Craig Fahey

Dover
Fury's: Tim Theriault
Sonny's: Soggy Po' Boys

Hanover
Canoe Club: Dan Freihofer

Hillsborough
Mama McDonough's: Ugly Sweater Party

Manchester
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Milly's: Manchuka
Shaskeen: Tristan Omand
Strange Brew: All-Stars
Whiskey's 20: Sammy Smoove & DJ Gera

Nashua
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bluegrass Jam w/ Dave Talmage

Peterborough
Harlow's: Celtic Music Night

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Cormack McCarthy
Press Room: Jazz Jam w/ Larry Garland & Friends

Wednesday, Dec. 23
Concord
Hermanos: Side Street Combo
Penuche's Ale House: Lamont Smooth Reunion Holiday Party

The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francetown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, prescottpark.org, 436-2848

- **Juston McKinney's Last Laugh 2015** Saturday, Dec. 26, 8 p.m. Music Hall
- **Stephen Kellogg** Tuesday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Adam Ezra Group** Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Manchuka Dinner/Dance** Saturday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Beatlejuice** Saturday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion (2 shows)** Saturday, Jan. 9, 2:30/ & 8:30 p.m. Flying Monkey
- **Cherry Poppin' Daddies** Friday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m. Tupelo

Dover
Fury's Publick House: Truffle Duo

Gilford
Patrick's: DJ Megan

Hanover
Canoe Club: Putnam and Piroz-zoli Duo

Manchester
Fratello's: Bob Rutherford
N'awlins: Catfish Howl
Tin Roof: DJ Vicious

Merrimack
Homestead: Brad Bosse
Tortilla Flat: Chris Lester

Nashua
Fratello's Italian Grille: Amanda Cote

Portsmouth
Demeters: Martini Night
Dolphin Striker: Tommy & the Rats
Press Room: Titus Abbott Trio
Red Door: Red On Red w/ Evaredy (Ladies Night)
Ri Ra: Erin's Guild
Rudi's: Dimitri Solo Piano

Rochester
Lilac City Grille: Tim Theriault
 - Ladies Night
Radloff's: Tony Santesse - Ladies Night

Warner
The Local: 2nd Annual Brad Myrick Christmas Extravaganza

Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, verizonwirelessarena.com

- **Get the Led Out** Friday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m. Cap Center
- **John Cafferty & Beaver Brown Band** Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Through The Doors** Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m. Flying Monkey
- **Joshua Davis** Wednesday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **Ryan Montbleau** Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m. Tupelo
- **David Bromberg Quintet** Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m. Flying Monkey
- **Eric Martin & Mr. Big** Saturday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m. Tupelo



SPARE TIME



Galactic NYE Party!
Thursday, Dec. 31st • 10pm-1am
\$20/person or \$35/couple

Family NYE Party!
Thursday, Dec. 31st
1:30pm-3:30pm \$44.95 (per lane)
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Live Music

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Baby It's Cold Outside

Live Music

Fri. Dec. 18th
Gardner Berry
Piano Classics

Sat. Dec 19th
Bob Pratte Band
Classic Rock

Thur. Dec 31st
New Years Eve Bash
Roxanne & The Voodoo Rockers
Rock and Roll Review



Fundraiser Event
Sat. Dec. 19th. 8am-12pm
Live Music- The Bob Pratte Band

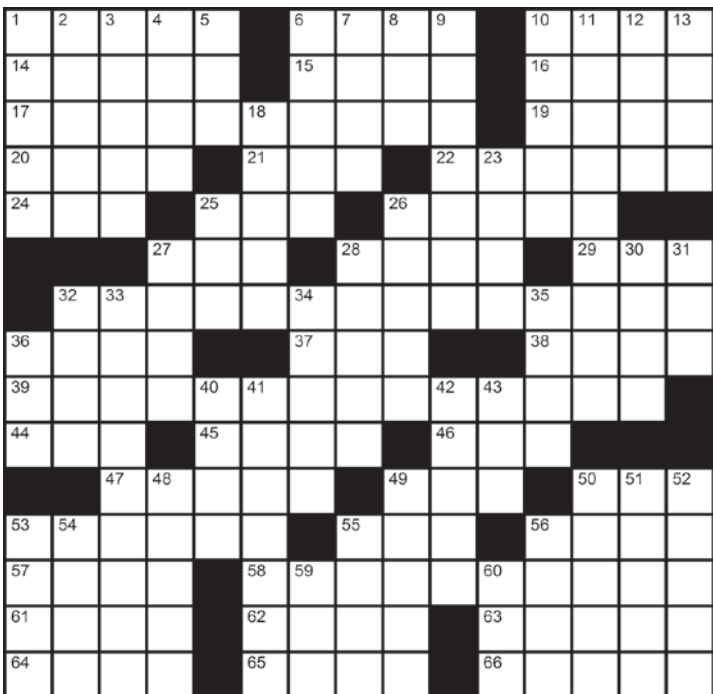


25 Main St. Goffstown Village • villagetrestle.com • 497-8230

"V: The Invasion" — sounds weird, but it works

Across

- 1 Tyler of "Archer"
6 "Omnia vincit ____"
10 "Pygmalion" playwright
14 Athletic team
15 The 29th state
16 When repeated, a Billy Idol hit
17 Chinese leader born in Norway?
19 "This is for," on an env.
20 One in Wiesbaden
21 "Yes way, Jose!"
22 Elton John collaborator Bernie



- 24 Messy digs
25 Chopping tool
26 "Free Space" game
27 Prefix for pod or corn
28 Subtle signal
29 April 15 payment
32 Complaining when you have to stand during that stadium thing?
36 Gas used in signs
37 Like a fossil
38 Elevator pioneer Elisha
39 Part of my Ukraine itinerary, maybe?
44 Card issued by the DMV
45 Tabula ____
46 Bud on a tuber
47 Number of legs on a daddy longlegs
49 Beats by ____ (headphones brand)

12/10



- 50 Law school grads, for short
53 1950 Isaac Asimov book
55 PBS's "Science Kid"
56 "The World According to ____" (1982 film)
57 Spend fewer bucks
58 Economist Bodie at an animal attraction?
61 Company whose product names are in all caps
62 Collect from work
63 Barbershop tool
64 Presidential run?
65 "Let It Go" singer
66 Fashion sense

Down

- 1 Stubborn beasts
2 Work release statement?
3 Cheerful
4 "Airplane!" star Robert
5 Letters on a toothpaste tube
6 Window alternative, on a flight
7 "Out of the way!"
8 Get behind?
9 Carrying on
10 Dragon faced by Bilbo Baggins
11 Touchy topic, so to speak
12 Apt to vote no
13 Las Vegas casino mogul Steve
18 2004 Britney Spears single
23 "My Way" songwriter Paul

- 25 Gallery wares
26 Irwin who won this season of "Dancing With the Stars"
27 Work the bar
28 Name yelled at the end of "The Flintstones"
30 Tel ____, Israel
31 Marks a ballot, maybe
32 "Felicity" star Russell
33 Narration work
34 Bring up
35 Made a tapestry, e.g.
36 Org. of Niners, but not Sixers
40 2012 Affleck film
41 Game played with five dice
42 Tiny Willy Wonka candies
43 Solid caustic
48 Steel girder
49 "The People's Princess"
50 Like most "Peanuts" soundtracks
51 Dog slobber
52 Mold particle
53 "____ just me ..."
54 Zen garden tool
55 "Dear" group
56 Winged pest
59 "Batman Forever" star Kilmer
60 Apr. 15 addressee

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 31ST

Darty

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All quotes are from *My Brother Bernardette*, by Jacqueline Wilson, born Dec. 17, 1945.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) “I don’t think I want to go to summer camp,” said Bernard at breakfast. “Yes, you do,” said Dad firmly. You know what you want. Speak up for it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) I found some old jeans in the rummage pile and thought I’d cut off the legs and turn them into shorts. ... I went a bit crazy with the scissors though. I went chop, chop, chop a little too enthusiastically. And once one leg was cut I had to cut the other one to match. My shorts certainly were short. They were the shortest shorts ever. So short that they showed my underwear. “Maybe you could add a little trim on them?” said the counsellor, tactfully. You may have gone too far, but it’s still fixable.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) I’m big but I’m not that big. I’m not anywhere near as big as Big Dan. I couldn’t make him shut up. You may be bothered by noisy neighbors. Stay polite.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) My brother Bernard is a little boy but he has big ideas. What you need right now are big ideas.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) Then it was my turn. I had to sew. And sew and sew. It was so BORING. You may have to put up with some boredom before you get to have fun.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) “What would you like to do today?” said the counsellor, taking his hand. “I don’t know what I want to do,” said Bernard. “I know what I don’t want to do and that’s model car making.” Be clear about what you don’t want.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) They’ve set up the summer camp in the school in our neighborhood. It’s being held for a

whole month this summer. All the kids in the neighborhood are going. We’re all a bit older than Bernard, but Bernard’s smart, so they said he could go too. “I don’t want to go,” Bernard said again. But Dad made him. “It’ll do you good to have some fun,” he said. A little fun will do you good.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) My brother Bernard had become a little star himself. “I can’t do drama, Sara,” he said, humming happily. “I’m too busy doing design.” You do you.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) “I can sew already,” said Bernard proudly. “No you can’t,” I said. “I can’t sew. So you can’t either.” “I can too. Grandma showed me how. I sewed on buttons. And I can do needlepoint too. And I think I can do this sort of picture sewing as well,” said Bernard, fingering the embroidered dragon on the kimono. Make the most of a co-worker’s hidden talents.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) “I don’t want daisies,” said Bernard. “I want a dragon.” “Ah. Well ... it would take months of practice before you’re at the dragon stage,” said the helper. “Unless ... I know!” There’s no substitute for practice.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) “We could sew some stuff on the back of the jackets, couldn’t we?” said Bernard. “We could use silver thread so it looked like studs.” It took so long to make the jackets that there wasn’t time for a dress rehearsal. “They’ll be ready for the performance though, don’t worry,” said Bernard. Nice costumes will help you perform well.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Bernard’s arm went out as he pulled on his long thread. Accidentally on purpose his elbow dug into the girl’s side. Bernard’s elbows are extremely sharp. Watch out for sharp elbows.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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| 8 | | | | | 2 | | | 7 |
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| | 8 | | 4 | | 1 | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 5 | | | 2 | | | | | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/17

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week’s puzzle answers are below

12/10

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
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| 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Isn't that their skill set?

In November, lawyer Michael Petersen of Appleton, Wisconsin, was ordered by county judge Philip Kirk (in a sentence for contempt of court) to inform every client he acquires in the following 12 months that Petersen is a “crook,” “cheat,” “thief” and “liar.” Kirk concluded that Peterson had lied about a plea deal with the prosecutor and created phony documents for backup, leading a client to plead guilty to armed robbery when the prosecutor said there was never such a deal.

Can't possibly be true

• Pastor Thom Miller, 60 (of the United Christian Ministries International in Mansfield, Ohio), told an international news crew recently that he had “married” his 19-year-old pregnant girlfriend (Reba Kerfoot), but that some in his congregation disapprove because Miller is already married (though his incumbent wife, Belinda, 44, apparently does approve). Said Belinda, “Thom is the love of my life and Reba is the blessing of my life, so it all works.” Said Miller, “Sexually I have no preference and look forward to my time alone with both wives.” (Bonuses: (1) Miller was an enforcer for organized crime in Cleveland until he “found God” in prison. (2) He is annoyed that Ohio recognizes same-sex marriage but not polygamy.

• Mexican artist Renato Garza Cervera's work usually involves realistic-looking figures created to startle (e.g., a “piggy bank” as a scowling hog of a man down on all fours), but his recent “gang member” floor rugs seem a career peak. Rejecting bear rugs and lion rugs, Cervera's “Of Genuine Contemporary Beast” project features exquisitely constructed, life-size, snarling, naked, heavily tattooed men's bodies (as if skinned) as rugs, representing “modern” beasts Salvadorean gang members. Actually, Cervera told Vice.com he intended sympathy: “Societies always invent new beasts in order to make others responsible for their problems.”

The finer points of the law

• Justice! In September, federal judge Cathy Seibel ordered the town of Liberty, New York (100 miles from New York City), to stand trial for failure to teach police and prosecutors proper free-speech law thus giving plaintiff Willian Barboza revenge for his arrest for writing a “crude” message on the speeding ticket he paid three years ago. Seibel ruled that Barboza's phrase (urging intercourse upon the manure-like town) posed no “imminent” threat and, besides, was obviously just a complaint about government services. Seibel also raised the possibility that money damages will come from the prosecutor's own pocket.

• Dr. Bilgin Ciftci was fired in October from Turkey's Public Health Institution and later charged with violating one of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's favorite laws against “insulting” the president (which carries a maximum four-year prison term) because Ciftci had joined a Turkish Facebook thread that was denouncing Erdogan with facial images comparing him to the “Lord of the Rings” character Gollum. The judge, admitting his unfamiliarity, appointed a five-person group of experts to advise him whether the Erdogan-Gollum comparison was “insulting.” (“The Lord of the Rings” film director Peter Jackson immediately protested that the images depict not Gollum but his benign alter ego Smeagol, making the comparison obviously unisulting.)

The job of the researcher

• Scientists from Australia's University of Queensland have developed “swimsuits” to act as diapers for six giant loggerhead turtles as they study their diets by examining their feces. “To our great surprise,” said one researcher, they “worked perfectly.” The suits were easy to put on, comfortable for the sea turtles to wear (according to the researchers, not the turtles), looked great (ditto), and we were “able to collect the entire fecal sample,” he bragged to a London Daily Telegraph reporter in Sydney.

• After all, leeches are interesting and thus someone has to study them, and Mark Siddall, curator of invertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History, is that person. These leeches are easily found, but only in the rear ends of hippopotamus-es, he noted, and told Wired.com in August

that if a creature can exploit a niche others cannot, it has a monopoly on food.

Least competent criminals

Damon Matthews, 19, surrendered to police in Bay City, Michigan, in November and confessed to robbing a 7-Eleven. His sister had convinced Matthews that police would soon arrive to apprehend him because, even though he wore a ski-mask “disguise,” Matthews is 7-foot-4 and a former high school classmate of the clerk. It was left unreported why Matthews thought the mask would help him.

Recurring themes

• Once again, someone minding his own business here became royalty elsewhere. This time, it was a 32-year-old Vancouver, British Columbia, man with a wife and baby, working as a gardener until he learned that a 6,000-person tribe in Ghana wanted him for their king. Thus, Eric Manu, a nephew of the king who died in 2013, was asked in July 2015 to come take over (part-time, at least), and by tradition, Manu's Canadian wife will join him as queen (“mother of all mothers”). Eric said the couple will do whatever they can to improve lives in their village.

• Undignified Death: On Dec. 2, a 48-year-old woman in Alicante, Spain, who according to neighbors had suffered from depression and was likely trying to commit suicide, leaped from her seventh-floor balcony but failed. She was hospitalized in stable condition after landing on an elderly gentleman sitting on a bench (who did not survive the collision).

Visit weirduniverse.net.

THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW



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Looking Ahead
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3/18 - Enter the Haggis
3/19 - Comedian Boh Marley
3/25 - John Mayall
3/26 - The Greatest Pirate Story Never Told
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4/23 - Colin Hay
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ROBERTO MORBIOLI



Fri., Feb. 5
8:00 p.m.
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RS-Theater

DINNER AND DANCING with MANCHUKA

Doors open at 5:30 pm



Sat., Jan. 2
7:00 p.m.
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GA-Tables

ERIC MARTIN OF MR. BIG



Sat., Feb. 6
8:00 p.m.
\$35-\$45
RS-Theater

NIGHT OF COMEDY

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JOSHUA DAVIS



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The Born to be Wild 2016 Tour



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8:00 p.m.
\$45-\$55
RS-Theater

ANNA NALICK

Ryanhood Opens



Fri., Jan. 22
7:00 p.m.
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RS-Theater

ANA POPOVIC



Wed., Feb. 17,
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